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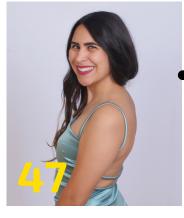
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# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Dear Readers,

We're extremely delighted to present you DE MODE OCT-NOV-DEC 2022 Global - Volume V, Issue XXVIII (The last & the uttermost elegant issue of our 5th year) featuring Coco Lodge @coco\_lodge from Love Island Season 8 @loveisland UK edition. Read Coco's exclusive interview with DE MODE on her most intriguing journey of Love Island. She is #ontheroadtoproveallhaterswrong. This cover is very special for us as we did this shoot with our most-admired fashion photographer, Irena Eastington.

This season our Sr. Photo-Journalist, Michael Foust @foust\_visual\_studios covered all the top-rated fashion weeks with our guest writer Jeanne Lea Delahousie @jleaaannwitit. Explore the diversified SS23 collections from the runway of @parisfashionweek, @nyfw, @milanfashionweek, @thailandfashionweek and @londonfashionweek.

Also, in this issue, we have got you the "Best 12 Reads For This Winter". As the days get chillier and the snow starts falling, curl up with all of these good books to read in winter.

Editor-in-Chief: Nick @iamdkingnick Front Cover Photo: Irena Eastington @happy\_in\_style Front Cover Makeup: Anisha Williams @aclvisualsmua Front Cover Hairstylist: Isa @isa\_creative

Enjoy reading DE MODE OCT-NOV-DEC 2022 GLOBAL ISSUE and don't forget to share your feedback on Google.

Nikhil C. Rana (Nick)
FOUNDER & Editor-in-Chief





# The Journey (in own words)

y journey on love island was an incredible experience, it was a rollercoaster and a mix of up and downs with both positive and negative implications on my life. I found love island to be one of the hardest things I have experienced so far in my life but also one of the most rewarding and fun times which not many people will get to experience in their life and for that I am so grateful and feel so blessed. Throwing yourself into the face of the public is hard to do and although it's beautiful I now have a platform where I can share stuff and causes that I am passionate about with a following which was the whole reason I wanted to go on the show, I consider myself to be very hardworking and ambitious and the idea of having a platform to jet start-up businesses and have new opportunities excites me.

However, I also have had to deal with the bad side of now being in the public eye, especially with social media trolls and negative press which has felt hard at times especially when they have been so brutal about my appearance, which sometimes makes you question yourself. Coming out I'm working on social media projects, mostly on TikTok and just engaging the audience I now have with funny content showing my 100% genuine self which was robbed from me on the show due to the editing. I like to keep things real and my audience appreciates that I don't just show myself at my best and I'm loving creating content that is authentic to me for my audiences. I have plans to be on another tv show as I enjoy reality tv and I'd love the opportunity to go on another show and meet new people and show my full personality.

Since coming out of the Love Island villa to so much hate and negativity I have made it a goal of mine to get so successful just to prove all the haters wrong. I find throughout the whole experience in a backhanded way it's made me love myself more than I did prior to the show because I've had to build myself up since coming out from the show and learn that regardless of anyone's opinion I have to love myself and all my features and imperfections that I put in a spotlight for people to crucify, I chose this decision and I've just had to own it both the good and the bad.

# OVE ISICINO SERSON 8

Coco believes that the "good side" of stubbornness can give you desirable qualities of determination and perseverance in the face of even overwhelming obstacles. After facing lots of criticism, she is now even more focused on her success in other reality TV shows.



She is often fearful of

her behaviour. At an

perceive attempts to change her mind as

lashing out at anyone who tries to question

stubbornness will

her personality.

the rigidity that



Love Island's Coco Lodge in a brand new interview session with DE MODE where she answers questions about her experience in Love Island season 8, how she gets into it and how she is preparing herself for the next reality shows.

### Q: Tell us about your experience at Love Island Season 8.

My experience on Love Island Season 8 can only be described as a rollercoaster, there were days when I struggled after being dumped by Andrew Le Page and I just wanted to go home or would cry to the producer BTS but there were also days when I had the best time of my life and wish I could relive those moments and I'll hold them close to me forever.

### Q: What made you get into Love Island?

I was actually scouted via Instagram for Love Island and decided to do it as a business opportunity because you can earn good money coming off a big show like that but I was also open to finding the one being a bit older than a lot of them in there in my late 20's I was hoping to find both love and new exciting opportunities off the back end of the show.

### Q: On Day 31, Andrew chose to couple up with you. How that made you feel?

I was so happy when Andrew decided to couple up with me, during casa amor we had a good connection and I really enjoyed that short period of time getting to know him, I could definitely see it going somewhere however coming off the show I can see how perfect him and Tasha are together and am so happy we didn't work out in the end.

# Q: You coupled up with Davide Sanclimenti and then Andrew Le Page but it didn't work out. What went wrong?

I coupled up with Andrew but never Davide we did kiss tho, though I think it's hard going in at the end week 4 people have developed such strong connections by then, 1 day in there is like a month so I think I drew a short straw in terms of being able to properly explore a connection.

### Q: Do you have a least favourite challenge that you did on the show?

My least favourite challenge I took part in on the show was the beer challenge it took hours to film, and was a lot of waiting around however producers filled us with snacks whilst waiting which was the best part.

### Q: What was most challenging in the entire show?

The most challenging part of the show for me was having to get over my feelings for someone whilst in a villa with them and seeing them cuddled up to someone else. But you'd be surprised when having to deal with it and not escape it you get over things so quickly.

#### Q: Do you intend to watch your season?

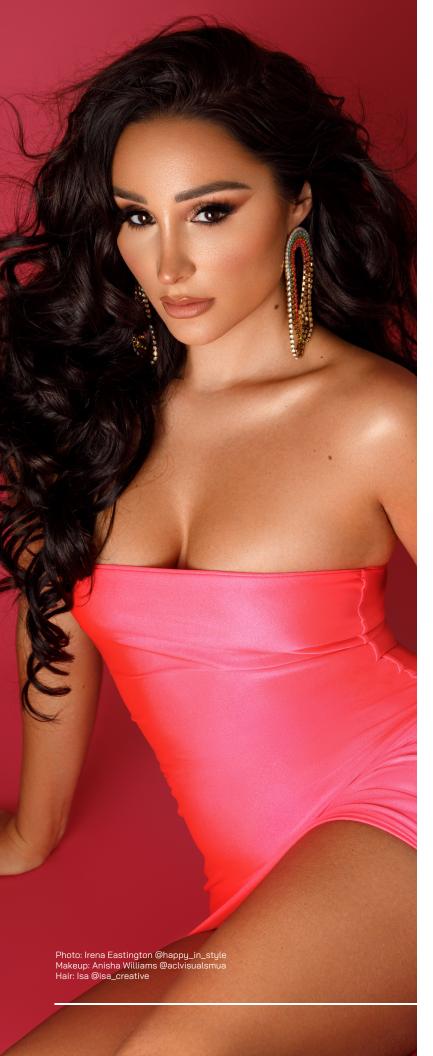
I have already watched all my episodes backed I really enjoyed watching it, it was interesting to see which parts they used to portray characters how they wanted to portray them.

### Q: Don't judge a book by its cover.

I agree don't judge a book by its cover, I came across as very sassy and strong on that show when really I was crying with producers daily really struggling to make not only romantic connections but friends in a tense environment that essentially is survival of the fittest.







### Q: What do you look for in a partner?

In a partner, I am looking for somebody who can make me laugh, and show me vulnerability and loyalty. Something that has been lacking in my previous relationships.

### Q: Tell us about your sweetest memory in Surrey.

My sweetest memory in Surrey is camping out on my trampoline with my friends at around the age of 11, no social media just loving life and living in the moment with no worries.

### Q: You're addicted to fitness. How often do you hit the gym?

I love fitness, I do F45 classes at the Blackwall branch 5x a week as well as 3 heavy lifting sessions a week. I also go on daily runs and walks with my dog milo to keep me fit and active.

# Q: We came to know you are a brilliant graphic designer. What's up with it now?

I love graphic designing it allows me to be creative and I find whenever I'm working on a new project for a client I pick up new skills that I didn't have before. I am still graphic designing but for a few special clients of mine, coming off the show I've been busy with doing paid advertising for various brands and lots of press events so finding a balance has been difficult.

#### Q: Do you dance? Like any special dance form.

I don't dance, and I've 0 rhythms or coordination however I do participate in pole fitness classes and twerk dance lessons I find it fun and it makes me feel confident and sexy in my own skin.

### Q: What are your plans for a solid comeback?

I plan to do another show as a comeback and to prove to anybody who trolled me for my appearance or for anything that happened on the show who I really am.

### Q: Where can we see you in the next 5 years?

In the next 5 years, I hope to have a few different businesses including a wellness app, and I also hope to be settled down and foster children which is my true passion in life.

# Q: People want to know more about your business, and the clothing brand you own. How did you manage it when you were on the show? What should potential future clients know?

I used to own a clothing brand called Montani Active, however, this has now closed, once stock run out I had to close it due to funds before the show being low. I loved doing it 20% off proceedings were donated to Beat an Eating Disorders support charity.

### Q: How do you feel about being on the front cover of DE MODE?

I am so excited to be on the cover of DE MODE I can't believe it I never thought a tiny 5ft2 would be a cover girl! Thank you everyone at DE MODE for this incredible experience.

**DEMODE** 

PHOTOGRAPHER

# IRENA EASTINGTON

Founder, Owner, Chief Photographer, Editor, Creative Director IRENA EASTINGTON PHOTOGRAPHY

LONDON

www.irenaphotos.com

# IRENA'S JOURNEY AS A PHOTOGRAPHER

Being the founder, owner, chief photographer, editor, creative director and just about everything else, including dog mum, it is my sole aim to empower men and women of all shapes, sizes and ages by creating incredibly beautiful photographs and videos that build self-confidence and leaves all my clients feeling truly wonderful!

Originally from Ukraine, my studies gained me an MBA in Business, before moving to the UK over 20 years ago now. Wow, I cannot believe how time fly's so fast!

I have always been very creative, so started my career as a makeup artist/retoucher, and then gradually worked my way up and became a professional photographer, working for one of the biggest names in the hair industry, Robert Masciave. My first winning project was featured in the biggest hair competition in the UK, called Fellowship. Since then I never put my camera down.

My interest in photography grew from working with some of the best photographers in the world, giving me a privileged insight and introduction to the industry. I now specialise in commercial and fashion photography, I am a passionate stylist and accomplished makeup artist specialising in beauty, hair and fashion.

For over ten years now, I am proud to be a highly published photographer, working for clients that include every major British newspaper, Barclays Bank, Revlon Style Masters, L'Oreal Color Trophy, British Hairdressing Awards, Channel 4, F.A.M.E and Sky Sports, to name a few. I have many eCommerce shoots and publications and continue to work on

television productions all over the world including UK, Europe, US and Middle East. My international work includes front cover works for Bazaar, L'Officiel and Glamour Magazine.

I adore specialising in men's and women's portraiture and while I get to be my own boss which I love, my main mission as your photographer is to show just how gorgeous my clients are and to refresh their confidence with a series of the most beautiful images.

Before I shoot, it is crucial that I understand each client's needs, inhibitions, likes, dislikes, and passions so I get to know a little about the person who becomes the centre of my photography universe.

Once a shoot date is confirmed, I will begin organising and creating the perfect tailor-made photography experience for each client...from the moment they set foot into my studio, I will work closely with their artistic approach, discuss outfits, share their vision, and what they are looking for from their unique photo shoot. My goal is to make every single client feel comfortable, happy, relaxed, and excited about what is about to happen next!



# CAMERA IS LOVE





PHOTOGRAPHYBY

# IRENA EASTINGTON



### DEMODE | COVER PHOTOGRAPHER

### Q: What was your first thought when you started photography?

When I started working, that's when I understood. I can't use the same light, or the same "safe techniques" for all my clients and whatever I have learnt through the books and YouTube went out of the window. As each client has to have a unique approach. I have to move 360 around them, use a flashlight, natural light etc, as harsh flash light suits some people, and natural light only. Some people shoot only great from above, and some just from underneath. The power of communication with your client is a key to success making sure each client gets a special approach to archive the best results. I understood that the team is everything, and you have to be mega patient with everyone if you work with people who have little experience, you need to cheer them, guide them and have fun with whatever happens on a set and work on your feet when things go not according to a plan and that's my fav part.

### Q: How do you as a photographer make sure that the thing, person or landscape you want to shoot looks the way you want it to?

I prepare upfront, and always ask my client to send me ideas, and their vision, whether I shoot a commercial or if it's a private client.

# Q: From your point of view, what makes a good picture?

Experiment with poses, light, make-up, and hair. Also trust from your client, believing you can do a good job, and making them relax and enjoy the process.

**Q:** What is your favourite subject to photograph? People, I love to see their expressions, turn them from normal-looking people to someone they will not be in their everyday life.

### Q: Since photography techniques and equipment change quickly, it is important to stay up-todate. What do you do to always keep up with the times?

I'm a creature of habit, I know there are so many new photography techniques and equipment but the most basic stuff is the best, so don't change what is not broken really. I always will try, but I rather improve my skills with the equipment I have, rather than keep changing equipment thinking it will make my work great. No one really cares if you took your image with Hasselblad or with polaroid as long as the final product is like wow, that's all that matters.

#### Q: Are you a detail-oriented person?

I'm a perfectionist, and sometimes it's very tiring, as no one really sees those details as I do (well my retoucher does:), but I can't function any other way. I'm a typical Virgo. Small tiny details make the whole picture look beautiful. I'm blessed with an amazing team who are actually the same way as me, so we have pretty good results usually.

Q: Nowadays almost everyone has access to devices with which it is possible to take pictures. What do you think is the difference between a professional photographer and any

### other hobby photographer?

My photography journey started as a hobby, I liked to make people beautiful then I realised I'm good at it and I turned that into a job. I believe if you have an eye, and passion and you are a bit creative, even with a mobile phone you can create a work of art.

### Q: Which one is your favourite lens and why do you prefer it?

She is a beauty - Canon 28-300mm F/3.5-5.6L. That babe is heavy, expensive and maybe not that sharp, but she does deliver magnificent results. A bit like the owner photographer @I have a few prime lenses, but because I shoot fast, I don't like to change lenses as when I'm in the moment I forget about everything.

### Q: Who influenced you the most? Is there any other photographer that you considers a kind of idol?

I love the work of David Lachapelle. Its pure art, colourful and crazy artistic and I love the course, that's definitely my thing. And I love Helmut Newton, his work its just wow. I love that style and I wish to start my own project soon. Im so into sexy fetish.

### Q: Among your works, which one is your favourite? Why?

Hmmm, difficult one, I think my fav shoot is the one I have done in Ukraine, with my Ukrainian girls. I hired a small studio in the middle of my city Vinnitsa and hired the whole team. Now model @marri\_dem from my shoot works in Milan and does high-profile campaigns and my Ukrainian team though it's a tough time now in Ukraine, they still going strong in the @bondarchuk.beauty.style industry.

#### @olena.lanhe.chala

### Q: What, in your opinion, is most important to consider while shooting portrait pictures?

The Person in front of your camera is the key to everything. You can have mega amazing light, super stunning makeup or crazy props but if a person not loving what she/he does or look like, all that technical stuff you can scrap and put down the drain. It's pointless. So for me to find the connection with my model at the beginning of the shoot and make sure they know I want to make them look the best is the most important thing.

### Q: As for how good would you describe your skills in Photoshop?

I love Photoshop. I'm a perfectionist in it as I said before so I can spend hours editing the images and make sure it's flawless, but I have amazing retouchers I'm working with, so makes my life so much easier now. They are both based in Ukraine btw.

### Q: In your free time, what kind of pictures do you like to shoot and which ones do you avoid?

I got a puppy now, so he is my 'Guinea pig ' so I am training my skill in moving photography as he doesn't sit still ever. There are no pictures I would avoid, I would try everything once.

### Q: How do you feel about working with DE MODE?

I'm delighted to get a feature, that was a dream of mine for a while, and professionally it's an honour to be interviewed by DE MODE. Thank you for having me.



# DEMODE's first insider look into

# 's newleapers debut

WRITTEN BY JEANNE LEA DELAHOUSIE, GUEST WRITER (FASHION) & PHOTOGRAPHED BY MICHAEL FOUST, PHOTO-JOURNALIST (DE MODE)





m N S S YFW's New Leapers came with a stronghold on the conversation within fashion today. Creating playful and vibrant textures to their own story, we dove deep into the presence that each show methodically prepared. As backstage is bustling with models in hair and makeup, organized by award-winning Marcello Costa, the runway's final lighting touch-ups are being secured. It is an exciting time for young designers, lovers of fashion, and everyone on the production team to see what the future of fashion has behind the runway.

Kicking off the show with **Saint Fleurs**' debut collection "Circle of Life", and the start of NYFW Day one.

A finely tailored, all white blazer jacket with added surgeon medical hood, goggles and silver metal neck plate is the show's first look. The composition comes across elegantly, as the audience is struck back to what our commonly forgotten first visual of the world is. The reverence to birth begins the New Leapers show just as these designers are beginning their journey materializing into the world of fashion.

# $DEMODE \,|\, \text{new York Fashion Week}$











DE MODE

Charlotte Sui (SISIO) is next up on the runway; her collection: "Heart Sutra" is a charming gloss on duality. She shares that her experience creating is a process of healing. A reclamation for the heart, the collection speaks from the first walk to the last. Her designs showcase the inverse of human emotions. From highs and lows Sui creates an imaginative cheosgram with two necklines articulated on the bottom and top of the traditional chinese dress. Utilizing the interdisciplinary play of dark and light Charlotte organizes organic cut outs hosted in black and white fabric as an ode to her trial with bipolar. From the ultra femme world of her sustainable garden, we see the fabric overlay that continues to build as the rising action finds it's point of climax.



SISIO SS23 Collection | Photo: Michael Foust, Photo-Journalist (DE MODE)





wings are displayed. Following are the Fall Twins, in a two person denim patchwork unique garment. We recognize after the fall or flight, there is still the dexterity topatch the pieces back together. Finishing the collection was a cage dressed ornamented in black and red bows. A comment of: if we spend more time decorating our barriers rather than breaking free of them. Luckily, this is not the case for Sui, she clearly has broken free and materialized her journey entrancingly in

# $DEMODE \,|\, \text{new York Fashion Week}$

SISIO SS23 Collection | Photo: Michael Foust, Photo-Journalist (DE MODE)















# r.l.e.

is a London-born sustainability-focused, designer brand founded in 2021 by Chinese designer Qixin (Cici) Zhang

The third designer to make an entrance on the runway is London-based Cici Qixin Zhang. Pastel petals promenade the white constructed runway whilst iridescent droplets magnify the simple wondrous details of malleable reflections in the sky. The flowing charming cutouts begin to transport us into an ethereal elaboration as our childlike wonder reconnects with a deeper remembrance. Fluidity sings upon every sustainable weave. Sought out opportunities with fabric scraps, and altered them into 3D yarn to weave and crochet the transformed materials into accessories and details on clothes. Slow fashion here is delicately contrived and fiercely sustainable for the present.



# WOODHOUSE

### **SS23 COLLECTION**

Julian Woodhouse closed out his artistically lead 'New Leaper's' show for NYFW. A solid-gold performance choreographed by Tony DeBerry included Julian Woodhouse and nine fellow dancers; Justin DeSean, Benie Gorde, Jo Daquigan, Bri Williams, Jahmeel Williams, Sydney Lastorino, Valerya Perez, Lloyd Boyd, Jonalyn Antoinette. Audience members were seen leaving their jaws on the floor. Enjoy reading our following article that highlights the splendour of Woodhouse's finale performance.



Photo: Michael Foust, Photo-Journalist (DE MODE)



in Seoul, CEO of Woodhouse Army, the cast of Next in Fashion, and the art director for the New York Fashion Week's New Leapers, Julian brought in a heavenly debut to New York Fashion Week for the SS23 season. Closing the house with a dance performance choreographed by the master in heels himself, Tony Berry. Consisting of eight dancers garnished in greens and gold, showcased their rhythm and raillery in their staggering neon green thigh-high heels.

### DEMODE | NEW YORK FASHION WEEK

"Just move your wings that god gave you, so you can move through" harmonized by Woodhouse; as powerful coloured bodies heated the stage a chill dispersed throughout the audience.

"Fighting and climbing our walls", an emergence of faith and prosperity; excellence and integrity, the dancers put their heart and soul into every beating choreographed move.

"Count your blessings because I gave you this joy", followed by the fulsome count number, obliged in trance, Woodhouse gave it all. The neon green and yellow cut-outs highlighted each delicate and muscular curve of the dancers. We see their wings as fluid spirits on the stage. Each move held into deification. Transcending a deeper understanding, we know this is a staple for the Woodhouse ethos. Through his lyrics and his determination in design on and off the stage there's no denying that counting his blessings added up to something greater than what meets the eye. Though the final tableau rests with eight dancers all curved around his stark white jumpsuit that gorgeously contrasts his rich deep complexion, our eyes truly had the honor to lay on something great.





# 

















### $DEMODE \,|\, \text{new York Fashion Week}$











# 12 MUST-READ BOOKS

# **FOR THIS WINTER**

**SCIENCE** FICTION

**POETRY** 

LOVE & RELATIONS

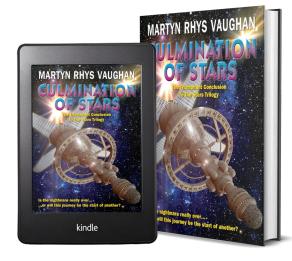


'CULMINATION OF STARS' BY AUTHOR MARTYN VAUGHAN, 'ADVENTURES WITH AN INTERDIMENSIONAL PSYCHOPATH' BY AUTHOR WAYNE KEELER, 'MILK' BY AUTHOR MICHAEL OWINO, 'A VICTORY SONG: BENEATH THE VIEL' BY AUTHOR SARAH DICKENS, 'CRIMSON MOON: CASCADE WOLVES' BY AUTHOR MONICA A. KASTLE, 'WRAITH' BY AUTHOR RAYMOND BOLTON, 'LOST SOUL: BOOK 1 WAR OF DESTINY SERIES' BY AUTHOR THERESA VAN SPANKEREN, 'NURSE DIARIES 2' BY AUTHOR AGNES VARONA OQUENDO, 'THE ULTIMATE SEASONAL LUNCHBOX' BY AUTHOR AUDREY SCHAERRER, 'HOW DEEP THE OCEAN' BY AUTHOR GLORIA LUCAS, 'SATURN' BY AUTHOR & POETESS SUSY GASCA, 'SPIRITS OF THE ICE FOREST' BY AUTHOR MAX DAVINE.

# CULMINATION OF STARS: BOOK 3

### BY AUTHOR MARTYN VAUGHAN

The book is the third in the "Stars" Trilogy which began with "Doom of Stars", continued with "Resolution of Stars" and finishes with "Culmination...". The three books form a single narrative of how humankind responds to the threat of imminent extinction by the planet Jupiter being thrown out of orbit after a scientific endeavour is corrupted by the desire for wealth and power. In the first book, the displacement of the giant planet destabilises the entire Solar system, with planets either colliding with Jupiter or being tossed into the Sun. Some people attempt to escape in



spaceships powered by gigantic laser beams which propel the vessels into interstellar space. The second book described the fate of those left on Earth, while "Culmination" follows the story of refugees on a starship—the Magellan—heading for Alpha Centauri, the nearest star. However, as the voyage takes over two hundred years we follow the story of several generations aboard the vessel. Characters come and go as mortality takes its toll on the inhabitants of the huge vessel, but we follow several lines of descent down the decades, seeing how they cope with problems that are common lot of most of us, as well as other problems to do with being trapped inside a giant metal structure. They encounter many problems as the years roll by and finally seem on the verge of completing their escape and saving the human race. And then they encounter a terrible threat to all life in the galaxy. All seems lost, not only for the would-be colonists but all sentient life. But then unexpected help is received from the past.

Get your copy of 'Culmination of Stars' today. Available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



MARTYN RHYS VAUGHAN

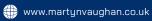
### **JOURNEY AS AN AUTHOR**

Author Martyn was born in the World Heritage town of Blaenavon in the green valleys of south Wales, a town where the first steps in the Industrial Revolution were taken and which has the best preserved early iron works in Europe.

As a writer, I have always been interested in the impact of science and technology on our lives on this small planet. Science, and its application as technology, have transformed the world we live in and increasingly we see that all our problems and all our hopes are intertwined as the inhabitants of this one small oasis in an unfriendly universe. Increasingly what happens in one corner of the world will impact the quality of life in another, perhaps far-off, region. We are all familiar with the term "Butterfly Effect" in which it is stated that a small change to conditions at one point in time can have huge ramifications later on. The Law of Unintended Consequences is evident everywhere we look in our recent history. A simple action of choosing a certain gas to cool refrigerators turned out to have devastating consequences for the ozone layer in the upper

atmosphere-a layer which protects us from harmful radiation from space. In "Culmination of Stars" I wanted to show how science is neutral regarding our lives—it can be used to improve and safeguard them, or it can be used to make them worse, and perhaps even end them. Chemistry can be used to create drugs to prevent many serious diseases but can also be used to create weapons of mass destruction; similarly, nuclear research can produce both power stations and bombs. Thus in the "Stars" trilogy, I envisaged a future which is even more dangerous than the one we currently inhabit, a world in which science can invoke powers and use abilities far beyond those we possess at present. Such a world could be a utopia for our species or it could be incredibly dangerous. The trilogy shows the Faustian scale of problems that our descendants will have to face: great powers to create—but also to destroy. It shows what might happen if desires that are all too human could interact with vast power to turn Utopia into Hell. How would we react? Undoubtedly, some would make every effort to escape, even if the destination was unknown and uncertain. That is the theme of "Culmination of Stars."

FOLLOW AUTHOR MARTYN RHYS VAUGHAN







### Q: What was the most difficult part while writing 'Culmination of Stars'?

The most difficult part was keeping track of the various lineages on board the ship as the story covers many centuries.

### Q: What came first to you — the plot or the characters — and why?

The story came first. I wanted to bring the whole story of a scientific dystopia to a satisfactory conclusion. The characters flowed from the story.

### Q: You just completed the trilogy. Which part of the story is your favourite?

I think "Culmination" is the favourite as it answers most of the questions and solves most of the problems raised in the first one. Some issues are left unresolved – but that's life.

# Q: What was the most surprising thing you discovered while completing the trilogy?

How I bonded with the characters. Even though I had invented them, I ended up really caring about them, and I hope the readers will too.

### Q: Can you share with us something about the book that isn't in the blurb?

The book ponders one of the biggest questions: Is there life elsewhere in the Universe? The book does answer that but it accepts that not all life-forms we may encounter will be friendly.

### Q: Does one of the main characters hold a special place in your heart? If so, why?

Karl Gelhardt is my favourite character; he is a man of action, courageous and a born leader. But he has to deal with a heart-rending issue that requires more than courage.

# Q: What was the inspiration for the story?

The problem of whether humans can be trusted with nearly absolute power.

#### Q: What is the significance of the title?

That the culmination of the entire drama has been reached.

### Q: Tell us about the process for coming up with the cover.

The cover had to give some indication of what the story is about. The background to the story is about a long, lonely journey to a double star and the image conveys that well, I believe.

### Q: What do you hope your readers take away from this book?

The novel is a hard science-fiction story in which I try to stay within the bounds of what may be possible in the future. But it is a story about humans facing incredible challenges, and I hope the readers will empathise with them.

# Q: If your book was to be made into a movie, who are the celebrities that would star in it?

Karl Gelhardt is Austrian, so Arnie would be a good choice for him. Susannah Reid is a feisty, self-reliant woman. I think Carey Mulligan would be a good choice.

### Q: When writing a series how do you keep things fresh, for both your readers and also yourself?

That was not too difficult with this trilogy, because although all three are part of an overarching narrative, they are set in very different times and places.

### Q: Do you find it more challenging to write the first book in a series or to write subsequent novels?

The first is the most difficult as you have to lay the groundwork not only for its story but the subsequent ones.

### Q: Who is the author you most admire in your genre?

Arthur C. Clarke; he has always tried to remain within scientific possibility.

### Q: What books or authors have most influenced your own writing?

Arthur C. Clarke - Songs Of Distant Earth; Edmund Cooper-Seed Of Light; Brian W. Aldiss-Non Stop.

# Q: If you could ask one author that you admire three questions about their writing, writing process, or books, what would they be?

- How do they get over the terror of the blank page at the start?
- How do they keep going when the task seems endless?
- How do they make their characters interesting and relatable?

# Q: Are you working on anything at the present you would like to share with our readers?

Not at the moment; "Culmination" was a long book and I need to recharge my batteries.

### Q: Do you have any new series planned?

Not a series, but I am considering a move away from hard science fiction into Horror-Fantasy.

### **BOOK 1 & 2 OF THE STARS TRILOGY**





# ADVENTURES WITH AN INTERDIMENSIONAL PSYCHOPATH

### BY AUTHOR WAYNE KEELER



This first book of the Adventures with an Interdimensional Psychopath is as the subtitle suggests, this is only the introduction to the madness that these stories will hopefully portray. The main story revolves around the "male" and female leads, Wabbajack and Lily Extravagund. The story begins with Lily and the endless rut that she has found herself in after so many years of just letting things happen because she just accepted things were out of her hands. That all changed when she meets



Wabbajack for the first time, in which he stood out so much, that she actually took her first step out of her rut, which led to her questioning her choices and life to the point that, she starts exploring, asking questions, stepping out of the bounds of her normal to the point where she winds up following Wabbajack on his adventures. Then once she leaves her world, she starts seeing things from the experiences of this interdimensional being where black and white don't really mean much, it's more of the grey as the worlds they visit don't follow the normal sense of morality. There are reasons, logic, possibilities and cultural things that take place that is vastly different from our own. And understanding these is essential in exploring the unknown. With the experienced guide, Wabbajack explaining the rules AND enforcing them, Lily still has some trouble adapting to her new life. But then you get to see how things are for Wabbajack's side of things where he is definitely not one of the most popular people around. Indeed, Wabbajack is not a chivalrous knight or gallivant hero, the general public treats him as a monster to be feared. Still, this is all the setup for their future adventures together. I hope you enjoy the book and the future ones of the series as well.

Get your copy of 'ADVENTURES WITH AN INTERDIMENSIONAL PSYCHOPATH' today. Available on Amazon.



**WAYNE KEELER** 

### **JOURNEY AS AN AUTHOR**

The Author, Wayne Keeler, actually didn't start writing for a good decade. They way this project started was with a simple idea. That idea then grew and grew into the series that it is taking its baby steps in this current present. Wayne always had a fondness for stories growing up, from Disney to Marvel to Manga's. However, every story that Wayne heard, people mention, it wasn't real. It never was. That didn't make sense to him as how did people come across these stories? How did these stories seem so real, have such a premise that seemed rooted in possible concepts that we could preform be not real? This led to many questions, and after an existential crisis or two, began finding answers in science. Sure, some things were really out there as an idea, like a rubber pirate or alcoholic robots, but with technology advancing along the road it is, who's to say one day, these things can't be possible one day? Suffice it to say, Wayne began exploring ideas, concepts, theories that could be used to explain such possibilities. The days that followed were no longer followed with, "not

possible" but with, "how to get there?" After all, space travel is just as real, genetics was real, psychology was real. So, after studying and studying these concepts for quite a long while, the ideas formed a story themselves. Fusing together to craft a world and cast that didn't just exist for the story, they were alive, performing actions that seemed alien or thoughts and conversations that were so out there were taking place. So, after much storyboarding and rough drafts, the author began writing. He also new that, there is more to writing a story than just writing it, there would be editing, illustrations, advertising, publishing. Which he knew would be a task too big for just one person. So he managed to find other like-minded people who wished to not only leave a mark in the world, but also inspire people to stretch their imaginations into the beyond and fuse it with the endless ambition to turn the impossible into possibilities that people could have only dreamed of, hopefully, just like when they planned to launch into space.

FOLLOW AUTHOR WAYNE KEELER







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### Q: What inspired you to start writing?

I enjoyed storytelling. If you tell an interesting story, it can inspire someone. Sometimes small, sometimes big. Either leading to a research binge or building a hovercraft. It's only limited by one's own imagination. And I want to inspire people to quit saying the impossible and use their imagination to make something possible.

### Q: What is the most difficult part of your writing process?

If we take out the finances and stuff that's out of my hands, it would be adapting the story to how the characters react and writing it in a way that is easy for everyone else to follow because I can get carried away in the world itself, sometimes forgetting that I'm writing for other people and not just myself.

# Q: What came to you first----the plot or the characters----and why?

Easily enough, the characters. Because what kind of world can you have if you don't have interesting people to inhabit it?

# Q: In your book, which part of the story is your favorite?

Would it be cheating if I said the whole book? If that is the case, then I guess if I had to narrow it down... I would say the visit to the Lost Souls Refuge as it felt like, to me anyways, a pretty humanizing and silly experience.

# Q: What is the most surprising thing you discovered while completing your book?

Again, if we take out finances and stuff that's out of my hands, it would be how much more I still needed to learn and the level of difficulty it is for a brand-new author and their team to get out there. It is quite a climb but, if you love what you do, then it is worth every step.

### Q: Can you share something with us about the book that isn't in the blurb?

This first book was originally meant to be 2 separate books. A friend challenged me to write over 300 pages. Later, did I find out that that would affect the price as much as it did and also, thanks to the feedback from those who have already read this book and we are working to fix some of the issues.

# Q: Does one of the main characters hold a special place in your heart? If so, why?

I would have to say Wabbajack himself. Not only did I name him with my favourite word that actually describes him pretty well, but he fits this weird niche that I needed in a character. He is goofy yet serious, caring yet cautious, and overpowered physically but, all that power still doesn't help when trying to find his place.

Q: What is the significance of the title?

Besides being obvious, being straightforward was always my biggest strength. So, having the series' main title being Adventures with an Interdimensional Psychopath, lets me use the subtitle as the premise of the adventure.

### Q: What do you hope your readers take away from this book?

To challenge the limits of their imagination and see where it takes them. Letting them know that nothing is impossible but, they approach it with cautious optimism.

# Q: If your book was to be made into a movie, who are the celebrities that would star in it?

That's really hard to think of considering a lot of the characters don't really have a human look. Wabbajack would be Ryan Reynolds, easily. Wonderful human being and I would dare say fits the personality. Lily is a bit harder for me to say but, I always enjoyed Emma Stone.

### Q: Do you find it more challenging to write the first book in a series or to write subsequent novels?

The first book, hands down. It is terrifying putting yourself out there for the world to see and seeing how it'll be received. The subsequent novels allow you the opportunity to build on and fix issues you saw with the previous novels.

### Q: Who is the author you most admire in your genre?

Stan Lee. It was mostly his writing and illustrations that inspired me to find my own answers and research the endless possibilities. Excelsior.

# Q: If you could ask one author that you admire three questions about their writing, writing process, or books, what would they he?

I would ask him how he gained traction, foster such a wonderful community, and what inspired him to create such noteworthy heroes and characters.

### Q: Are you working on anything at the present?

I am actually. Keep an eye out fort the next book in the series, Adventures with an Interdimensional Psychopath: The Spoiled Milk Run (subtitle still being workshopped).

### Q: How do you feel about being featured in DE MODE?

I'm excited. I'm truly excited as the hardest thing is getting out there. I and my publicist have been working diligently on making this project stand out and hopefully bring it to other people and this will hopefully get the name out there.

### **MILK**

### BY AUTHOR MICHAEL OWINO

A top businessman and his female partner suddenly move their bloody and illegal art business to India. Interpol and the Danish secret agent Tom Halvorsen get approved 8 days to investigate freely inside India When the story takes a turn and starts to unfold in India the reader will now see the story from the point of the villain and through her eyes. Her name is Claire. She is a powerful woman and for several years she has been in a close love and work relationship with the main villain Gustav Kräsen.

We experience Mumbai from her perspective, and we get an insight into the corruption foreign companies trying to do in India. We experience how official India more or less is forced to turn the blind eye to financial crimes done by foreign companies. What to



choose. A lot of money to the state of Mumbai, or go strictly with the law and risk the companies feel better of elsewhere and then loose the investments?

The Danish investigator Tom Halvorsen had just arrived home, to his newly bought, small but cosy house. placed in one of the Prosperous suburbs in the northern part of Copenhagen. He was then told by one of his colleagues that-That there had just been a shooting inside Copenhagen, that had left his closest partner Olina deadly wounded. Instinctively he had known that it was some sort of revenge from Gustav Kräsens- The mighty and powerful CEO that runs and own the world's biggest Diary firm, and for the last three year has been investigated by MI5 The German and Danish secret police for his role in -KUNST RINGE an illegal art business that operates in the shadows, among wealthy businesspeople all over the world. The stakes are high in this historical drama. You won't read many pages before you get sucked into this historical drama.

Get your copy of 'MILK' today. Available on Barnes & Noble & Amazon. Discover more on www.michaelowino.com.



**MICHAEL OWINO** 

### **JOURNEY AS AN AUTHOR**

Since a very young age Michael also have been a well-known musician in Denmark where his drumming ability in the 80 s soon get a large following in the- New Wave movements and the post punk music scene. From mid 80s Michael stopped performing with his band Ballet Mecanique. Instead, he got himself a role behind the scenes where he signed other artists and started to promote and sell music exclusively via the music company EMI.

During this period Michael traveled the world and simultaneous with his work he took a bachelor in pedagogic and later a degree as Asperger consultant . That led him to get a big knowledge about society and politic. From this educational background and fieldwork, he gained a specific interest in political decision making and how a simple decision actual work after it is fully integrated in society. Michael began to get serious about writing in 2010 his writing career started late in life

"I always knew that I was good at writing stories. I had written a lot of text music and so on but I had never written a book. While I had travelled a lot in Germany during my whole life and had some family members there I was starting to wonder — how on earth could these skilful and friendly people ever have been Nazis. As history always had been my great hobby I was starting to dive deeper into the question — I wanted to write a book about how it could happen what had turned those people into this disaster"

In between the work with the reach and writing the first draft of Caught in time. Michael took extensive writing classes at a school for two years and his teacher helped him to get to the finish his debut novel Caught in time and a new trilogy and writer was born. Since then Michael's life had been all about writing.

The first two books of the trilogy is already released in Danish, with the first one already being translated into English with a lot of online-readers. His second book, The Attack on the Ferris wheel, is soon to be released in English as well, while the third book in the series, is on the way. A lot of exciting new stories and adventures.

FOLLOW AUTHOR MICHAEL OWINO







### Q: What inspired you to start writing?

I always felt a lot of books that I read weren't finished or weren't finished the right way. While reading, I always felt something was missing from the story. The books I read weren't 100 percent complete which desperately inspired me to start writing my own books. You'll find a wonderful ending in my every book.

### Q: What is the most difficult part of your writing process?

The most difficult part of my writing process is to make my books easy to read and understandable to a wider audience. I never make my writings look complicated or incomplete. For the same, I write for long hours and give a thought always before completing each chapter in my books.

### Q: What came to you first----the plot or the characters----and why?

Always the plot. I usually have the whole story in my head before getting it to paper. It happens to me most of the time. I picture the entire story in my head even before putting it down to paper for drafting.

# Q: In your next book 'MILK', which part of the story is your favorite?

It's the part where I write about Asia, more specific India. I love the country and have been travelling there a lot since the 90s. Writing descriptions of interesting places, like in this instance Mumbai and the surrounding area, gave me a lot of pleasure because descriptions are a kind of break from the main storyline and drama and this book MILK is no exception.

# Q: What is the most surprising thing you discovered while completing your book?

MILK is a part of a trilogy. What surprised me the most was how the whole project changed me. It has taken me to the most remote places in the world and unknown cities. Because I'm very much a research author. So I won't write about anything where I'm not 100 percent sure about the setting of the scene that I'm writing.

# Q: Can you share something with us about the book that isn't in the blurb?

Yes. In the blurb, we are left with one of the main villains severely wounded. In the last part of the book, we will again leave the main character wounded.

# Q: Does one of the main characters hold a special place in your heart? If so, why?

Yes, the receptionist at Hotel Eden wolf in Munich. Mr Luipont who has appeared in all three books in the same role is both a fussy receptionist and a very kind and service-minded person. He is for me a character that represents the everyday person, I believe we all have met in our life-a person who out of the

blue has bestowed one with some sort of kindness and helpfulness' Mr Luipont's representation is for me what will be in the future and the good in humanity. We all have to raise our standards and try to find kindness within.

### Q: What is the significance of the book title?

The book title refers to the plot of the book. The book is about a German dairy firm that came out of WW2 as the biggest dairy firm and now is one of the world's biggest dairy firms. The company's CEO Gustav Kräsen is a deeply corrupted billionaire that besides his role as a CEO also has a company that is selling stolen art that he mostly have to inherit from the Nazis regime that stole it from the occupied countries.

### Q: Do you find it more challenging to write the first book in a series or to write subsequent novels?

I don't feel it is a challenge to finish the first or last book in a series. I always look forward because I always know what the books are going to be about as a starting point. So then I go on a trip to research and look for all the scenes where the action takes place to be done correctly. This means that I am on an eternal journey out to places you don't know around the world.

### Q: Who is the author you most admire in your genre?

In my genre, the author I admire the most is Erica Jong. The big feminist writer from the 70s, who wrote Fear of Flying. Why do I admire her? First of all, she is an inborn talent. She was the one who really got me interested in literature when I was a kid. Secondly, she is experimenting with her writing way more than any other writer of her status would ever dream about doing. She is 100 percent uncompromising with her craft. Her generosity in spirit, helped me to get to the finish line with my first-ever novel "Caught in Time".

### Q: Are you working on anything at the present?

Yes, a lot. I'm about to write a ten-book series called The Tennis Club. The series is about five wealthy families living more or less in the same area and all of them are members of a private-members-only tennis club. Each book has its own drama & can promise it's not easy.

### Q: How do you feel about being featured in DE MODE?

I'm overly excited. This is the first time an international magazine has taken out the time to do an interview with me about my writing. Thank you very much to the Chief Editor & the entire team of DE MODE. This means a lot.

# A VICTORY SONG: BENEATH THE VIEL

### BY AUTHOR SARAH DICKENS

Sarah Dickens' first book, "A Victory Song: Beneath the Veil," has three main themes that comprise the book: an emotionally-straining relationship with her mother, her relationship with her ex-boyfriend, and seasonal friendships. All of these themes point to Sarah's relationship with her Lord, Savior and God, Jesus Chirst, as she goes through hard times and difficult circumstances related to her bipolar disorder diagnosis. All of these themes test Sarah's faith in God through Jesus Christ as she goes to see a Christian counselor at First Baptist Atlanta, her church, in order to



confront the challenges related to Sarah's mental health diagnosis and learn and develop spiritual disciplines that Sarah talks about in depth in this book for Sarah to be able to walk in the victory that is of Jesus Christ in spite of her mental health diagnosis. Sarah's relationship with her mother is described by Sarah as emotionally-straining because her mother is diagnosed with a mental illness too and puts a great deal of stress on Sarah, as well as other feelings to accompany these feelings of stress. Sarah's relationship with her ex-boyfriend points Sarah to come back to the Lord right after the breakup happens in a most profound way of which is explained in this book. Sarah's seasonal friendships in the time that she was friends with them point her back to the Lord right after the breakup with her ex-boyfriend and put her back in a strong relationship with God as she makes the choice to put the past of her relationship with her ex-boyfriend behind her and move forward in her relationship with God in this season of healing in Sarah's life.

Get your copy of 'A VICTORY SONG: BENEATH THE VIEL' today. Available on Walmart, Barnes & Noble, Amazon.



SARAH DICKENS

### **JOURNEY AS AN AUTHOR**

Sarah Dickens has loved to write since she was in Kindergarten. When she was in the second grade, Sarah created a picture storybook with colored illustrated images that she made in her second grade class and the colored images and writings of this book were put inside of an actual bound book. When she was in the fifth grade, she would write stories and have her fifth grade teacher read them to the class after she was finished writing them. Ever since she was in Kindergarten, Sarah always wanted to be an author and even told her Kindergarten teacher when her Kindergarten teacher asked her, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" that she wanted to be an author! This statement that Sarah made to her Kindergarten teacher was put inside of a book with the other hopes, dreams, and aspirations of her other Kindergarten colleagues.

Many years later, in her young adult years, Sarah attended a women's conference, where she was asked to stand in front of the attendees of the

conference and state her dream. She stated to the crowd, "I am going to write a book," and she wrote her first book, "A Victory Song: Beneath the Veil," after coming into contact with her book coach there. Her book took about five years to write after intense feedback from those in Sarah's community and was released in February 2022. In Sarah's free time, Sarah enjoys blogging on her blog, "Sarah's Walk With Jesus," in her spare time along with taking walks in nature and journaling in her notebook and pen order to come up with ideas for her future writings. Sarah's book, "A Victory Song: Beneath the Veil," has impacted many in her community and those throughout the world that have read it. Her journey, as an author, has been one of great courage and strength that has been continually demonstrated throughout her first book and future writings to come ahead. Sarah is in the process of writing a second book that is to be a follow up of her first book, "A Victory Song: Beneath the Veil," in her series of books that she is creating. She is hoping to publish it, on her journey as an author, by 2024.

**FOLLOW AUTHOR SARAH DICKENS** 







#### Q: What inspired you to start writing?

I was at a women's conference. While at the conference, the speaker asked me to stand up and speak what my life dream was. I replied, "I am going to write a book." It was after I made this statement that I met my book coach while at this conference, who helped me to put my book together.

### Q: What is the most difficult part of your writing process?

The most difficult part of my writing process is going back and editing and re-editing my works because it can take a long time to edit and reedit writings that I create as I see what is important that I need to keep in my writings and what isn't important that I can take out from my writings.

### Q: What came to you first----the plot or the characters----and why?

The plot. As I began to write my first book, the plot of the book was already envisioned in my mind clearly. I wrote out the plot first and then the characters came to me as I began to write out the details of the plot of my first book.

# Q: In your book, which part of the story is your favorite?

In Chapter Five, "The Scarlet Letters," I talk about how I go on a missions trip to Japan for two months and the experiences associated with it. I really like this chapter because it proved that in spite of my bipolar disorder diagnosis that I can do anything I put my heart and mind to with God by my side.

### Q: What is the most surprising thing you discovered while completing your book?

I did not believe that I had that much courage or strength to write out my story and tell it. The fact that I could put and condense all of my emotions together in this one book shows that I am more courageous and stronger than I think I am. I surprised myself with this truth!

# Q: Can you share something with us about the book that isn't in the blurb?

In Chapter Seven, I talk about the experiences that happened to me when I became homeless and was referred by my friend to go to the homeless shelter, "My Sister's House." I gained a lot of wisdom and learned many life lessons from this experience, such as how to manage my finances and rely on God for strength and prayer.

### Q: Does one of the main characters hold a special place in your heart? If so, why?

Trinity, because she was my good friend who referred me to, "My Sister's House," where I had no where else to go. She is also one of my dear friends from my church that I could trust and ask for prayer for the hard times related to my mother. She is a God-send!

#### Q: What is the significance of the title?

At first, I was going to call this book, "A Victory Song," instead of, "A Victory Song: Beneath the Veil." Then, my book coach suggested that I come up with a subtitle for the book. I then came up with the title and subtitle to accompany the book title, "A Victory Song: Beneath the Veil."

### Q: What do you hope your readers take away from this book?

I hope to provide readers a sense of hope and hope in God through Jesus Christ, whether they have a mental health diagnosis or not, and are just reading my book out of curiosity, so that they know that they are not alone.

# Q: What's your favorite and least favorite part of publishing?

My favorite part of publishing is writing out the parts of my book and making them to be a part of the story I write. My least favorite part of publishing is the amount of time it takes to publish a book because it can take a long time (a few to many years) and is very lengthy.

### Q: Do you find it more challenging to write the first book in a series or to write subsequent novels?

It is harder to write the first book in a series because the characters and plot mentioned in the first book has to tie to the plot and characters in the second book. I am in the process of writing a second book and making sure it ties back to the first book.

### Q: Who is the author you most admire in your genre?

Lysa TerKeurst. Because she is able to tie her own personal life experiences and provide detailed accounts of how God brought her through those life experiences in her writings. I admire her talent and ability to put a story together as she provides details of her life experiences to her readers and point readers to Christ at the same time.

### Q: Are you working on anything at the present?

I am currently in the midst of writing a second book as a follow up to my first book. I do not want to give away the book title, plot, or characters involved as I want readers to be encouraged to read the second book if they wish to find out what happens in this series.

### Q: How do you feel about being featured in DE MODE?

I am humbled that DE MODE would consider my book title and I am also honored that DE MODE would choose to interview me about my book being published because it excites me that I have made it this far in my journey, as an author. Being published in DE MODE is a milestone in my journey, as an author.

# CRIMSON MOON: CASCADE WOLVES

### BY AUTHOR MONICA A. KASTLE

Clio Hyde, an emergency room doctor at Celestial Medical Center, treats the injured, helps the weak, and upholds the canons of the pack. She thought she had seen it all, witches, elves, and fairies—until a victim of an assassination attempt is brought in with an unusual wound to prove her wrong. Clio calls the pack's police force, the Enforcers, to investigate and comes face to face with Captain Wolt, his rich cinnamon eyes, and unyielding will. Her carefully crafted world starts to unravel when she's drawn into the investigation and begins to rely on the captain's strength. Clio



finds herself wanting more and fearing getting hurt. Captain of Enforcers, Ansel Wolt, has a lifetime of secrets he has kept from the Cascade pack. Motivated by the ghosts haunting him he builds walls of protection and navigates through life untethered. His defenses are threatened when an enemy from his dark past targets those around him, endangers his relationship with Dr. Hyde, and leaves death in their wake. Ansel must protect his pack, but it means risking exposing his lies and losing their trust.

Can he find his enemies before the territory and those close to him pay the ultimate price? Will Clio and Ansel's desire for one another survive the threats surrounding them or will they become the next victims?

The story is full of paranormal, romance and mystery. The length of the novel is so long that one could binge-read it on weekends. The language used in the book is easy to understand. The storyline is very interesting and DE MODE strongly recommends this book to it's fellow readers.

Get your copy of 'CRIMSON MOON: CASCADE WOLVES' today. Available on Walmart, Barnes & Noble, Amazon.



**MONICA A. KASTLE** 

### **JOURNEY AS AN AUTHOR**

M.A. Kastle, Monica grew up in a small, rural town surrounded by mountains in Northern California. Their beauty, unpredictable terrain, and wilds combined with a love for fantasy and horror ignited her passion for writing as well as photography. As a child, if she didn't like the ending of a movie or television show she would grab her notebook and pencil and spend hours rewriting it. Her first stories included detectives, microfilm, and ghost towns. Later she began writing poems where she weaved fairy tales with dragons and magic. In high school, she bought her first camera and set about to capture the landscapes of the area. She also studied Greek and Norse mythology, watched countless black-and-white creature films, and became a devout fan of Noir. Her early influences were Richard Adams, Michael Ende, and Robert E. Howard.

After high school, Monica left the mountains in search of adventure. Armed with her camera and notebook, she has lived on both coastlines, has wandered throughout the US, and travelled abroad. Her journeys have taken her to

incredible places where she met amazing people and was grateful to listen to their stories. The experiences have encouraged her inspiration, given her a plethora of writing material, and has enriched her imagination.

After years of submitting stories, she finally took the plunge and independently published Bone Chimes, the first book in the Cascade Saga, an urban fantasy series. Her short horror stories have been published in Women in Horror Annual, first edition, Fantasia Divinity Magazine, and The Sirens Call. She is the author of Tales of Woe, a collection of short horror stories, A Curse Revisited, a novella, and the urban fantasy series Cascade Saga. Bringing characters from the Cascade Saga to the series Cascade Wolves, she opens a new world of adventure. A dark urban fantasy series Moonlight Territory weaves intrigue, noir, and romance in the mountains of Northern California.

Soon to be released is Crimson Steel, the second book in the Cascade Wolves series. Monica writes in sunny Southern California surrounded by her family, notebooks, camera, and her writing partners, two German Shepherd dogs, Liska and Helden. She is a member of California Writers Club, High Desert Branch.





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### Q: What inspired you to start writing?

The mountains. My dad would take us for drives, all dirt roads through the mountains and there was always a story behind a forgotten cabin, the remnants of an old mine. A lot of those places have ended up in my short stories or novels.

### Q: What is the most difficult part of your writing process?

Facing the dreaded blank page. I'll write dialog that may or may not end up in the book so there's always something there.

### Q: What came to you first----the plot or the characters----and why?

The characters come first. Names, faces, traits, I enjoy fleshing out their personalities. From there I create a setting for them.

# Q: In your book, which part of the story is your favorite?

I love the middle of the book where the characters are in control, and it takes off. It's like I'm watching it unfold.

### Q: What is the most surprising thing you discovered while completing your book?

The most surprising thing that I discovered is that it led to a second book and in the future a third book. I was sure Crimson Moon was going to be a stand-alone and not a trilogy. I was so wrong.

### Q: Can you share something with us about the book that isn't in the blurb?

The female protagonist, Doctor Clio Hyde, is conflicted about being half werewolf and half-human as if she isn't as good as everyone else. Despite her best efforts, she takes her frustration out on the people around her.

# Q: Does one of the main characters hold a special place in your heart? If so, why?

Of course, they all do. However, I have to say Ansel Wolt, he's passionate about his convictions and tries so hard to do the right thing. He's a silent strength people depend on.

# Q: What was the inspiration for the storu?

I wrote Bone Chimes, and Ansel, a secondary character in that book stayed with me. I thought it would be fun to delve deeper into his life.

### Q: What is the significance of the title?

I love thinking of titles, and then incorporating them. It's a challenge to see where I can put them. Crimson Moon describes a part of the story.

### Q: Tell us about the process for coming up with the cover.

I like the duality of it. I thought of Clio, half human, half werewolf. She lives in two worlds and doesn't believe she's part of either.

### Q: What do you hope your readers take away from this book?

Frist and foremost I want them to enjoy the adventure. I hope they can relate to the characters, and they'll remember them. And they'll want to read the next book.

# Q: If your book was to be made into a movie, who are the celebrities that would star in it?

That's a tough one. I don't associate my characters with real people. Let's see, Ansel Wolt would be played by Jay Tavare, from Longmire and Pathfinder. As Clio Hyde, I think Heather Graham, from The Last Son and From Hell. That was pretty easy, I may have to write a blog post about it.

### Q: Do you find it more challenging to write the first book in a series or to write subsequent novels?

I love starting a new book, it's wide open, nothing is set in stone, and my imagination can run wild. Subsequence novels have to follow the rules. I'm always looking through my notes making sure I've stayed true to the characters or I'm searching for a term I've used.

### Q: Who is the author you most admire in your genre?

There are some incredible urban fantasy writers out there. My current obsession is Patricia Briggs. Love Mercy and the world she's crafted.

# Q: If you could ask one author that you admire three questions about their writing, writing process, or books, what would they be?

I would ask them, what kind of books they read and do they read books from their genre. I find things like that interesting. What is their writing schedule is, and lastly, do they work strictly with an electronic device or do they have a crazy number of notebooks.

### Q: Are you working on anything at the present?

I have finished writing Crimson Steel, book two of the Cascade Wolves, and am getting ready to publish it. I have started Silver Tears, book two of the Moonlight Territory series.

### Q: How do you feel about being featured in DE MODE?

This has been an incredible opportunity and a great experience. I can't wait to tell everyone. Thank you, DE MODE, for this article. It was a great interview with you. I must say that.

#### WRAITH

#### BY AUTHOR RAYMOND BOLTON

Infuriated over the late-night attack that has left him and his children murdered and his wife in an ICU, fighting for her life, Warren returns to the world of the living to take revenge against the trio of street thugs who attacked them, and also against Jordan, his business partner, who has embezzled their investment firm's assets.

A spirit returns to the world of the living with a vendetta against the men who killed him and an old colleague in Bolton's horror novel. Warren has a drinking problem, a marriage on the rocks, and a life on the brink of disaster. It's cut short when a 'trio of street thugs' nearly kill his spouse and succeed in murdering him and his two children. Warren's final rest is short-lived, however, when he



reawakens as a ghost bent on murderous revenge. His targets aren't just his assailants, but also his former business partner and friend, Jordan, who, it turns out, has been having an affair with Warren's wife and embezzling from the company for the past three years. Warren compares Jordan's financial scheming to convicted fraudster Bernie Madoff's—an effective juxtaposition that helps to get readers on the undead hero's side. There's a delicious playfulness to Bolton's tale of haunting, which is sprinkled with campy, italicized lines, such as 'I'm ba—ack,' which the protagonist delivers to his colleague-turned-enemy. This expertly paced novel of gruesome vengeance will provide readers with a sense of unseemly pleasure as they watch it all play out. Behind all the ghostly drama, however, is an intriguing exploration of what it means to become someone—or something—else. Other ghosts act as foils to Warren's retributive desire, casting the novel as a dialogue on what it means to indulge a desire to even the score.

Get your copy of 'WRAITH' by AUTHOR RAYMOND BOLTON today. Available on Google Books & Amazon.



**RAYMOND BOLTON** 

#### **JOURNEY AS AN AUTHOR**

Raymond Bolton began writing his debut novel, Awakening, an other-world science-fiction/fantasy, in the late 1990s. In 2013, he entered it into the Pacific Northwest Writers Association's annual literary competition, competing with more than 950 other manuscripts, where it became one of eight finalists. That success convinced him that he ought to self-publish it.

In 2015, he learned that WorldCon was coming to Spokane, Washington. Deciding to see what the event might hold in store, he brought his two extant English language titles, Awakening and Thought Gazer. Because he had previously been encouraged to have Awakening translated into Spanish, and since WorldCon is an international event drawing attendees from several nations, he brought a handful of copies of El despertar. He had no way to anticipate that the publicist for WordFire Press, one on the conference's attendees, would be a native Spanish speaker who would fall in love with it. That happy coincidence led to him signing a contract in 2016. Since then, the

first two titles have evolved into a quartet with the addition of Foretellers and Triad.

Along the way, he has earned the endorsements of the late Mike Resnick, who holds the record for Hugo Award nominations, and who calls his work "well though out".

El despertar has also shone. In 2019, at the International Latino Book Awards held in Los Angeles, California, it won two silver medals: one for Best Science Fiction Novel In Spanish, and the second for Best Translation From English Into Spanish. Since then, Raymond has struck out in new directions. His Young Adult science fiction novel, entitled Folder, was an award-winning finalist in the International Book Awards.

Wraith, his first foray into horror, won the endorsement of Michael R. Collings, who was named Grand Master at the 2016 World Horror Convention. Its Readers' Favorite 5-star review calls it, "Dark and haunting, Wraith by Raymond Bolton is an extraordinary supernatural thriller. Seeing the world from the dead man's perspective is an original and fascinating variation of a ghost story. Well-written, it is a mesmerizing story that is unforgettable."





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#### Q: What inspired you to start writing?

I've always wanted to be an author. At one point, the obvious occurred to me: If I ever wanted to be in print, I needed to sit down and set to work. Now, with eight novels written, one translated into Spanish, and one in the works, Wraith is my sixth novel in print.

#### Q: What is the most difficult part of your writing process?

Perfectionism sometimes stops me in my tracks. I want the language to flow, the plot to be unpredictable, and the characters to have flaws and motives the reader will recognize. In my latest work, I found the last two were failing. To understand what would give the story a better direction, I took pages of notes to get it moving again.

#### Q: In your book, which part of the story is your favorite?

I was a sailor on San Francisco Bay, so the chapter where Warren remembers a moonlight cruise, the city lights on the water, and his crew's triumphant entrance into a swanky restaurant in foul weather gear, something he can never enjoy again, portrays how much he has lost when he could have gone into the light, but chose not to.

#### Q: What is the most surprising thing you discovered while completing your book?

I was most surprised by San Francisco's supernatural history and the number of ghosts that are familiar to local residents.

#### Q: Can you share something with us about the book that isn't in the blurb?

I was a high-end hairdresser in Tiburon, CA and several characters were inspired by my clients: a bay area real estate developer with an Oakland Airport road named after him; a bodyguard for the daughter of a Cosa Nostra capo; the daughter of the man who founded one of the nation's most respected polling companies, the list goes on."

#### Q: Does one of the main characters hold a special place in your heart? If so, why?

As deeply flawed as he is, I am most enamoured of Warren Sumner, the story's lead. Despite personal flaws that he recognizes, like so many of us, he often fails miserably when life demands better of him. His heroism shows itself when he pulls himself up by his bootstraps and tries his best to make things right... even after death.

#### Q: What was the inspiration for the story?

I always loved the movie, Ghost, with Patrick Swayze & Demi Moore. And while theirs was a love story that succeeded, I am a sucker for the underdog who tries his best, even when life, or in this case, death tramples him time after time.

#### Q: Tell us about the process for coming up with the cover.

I hire world-class artists to create my covers. I tell them something about the protagonist, and sometimes the story, and trust in their ability to create something unique. Wraith's cover is the last one Dean Samed created. His YouTube series on graphic imagery now has over three million followers, something that wouldn't have flowed from mediocrity.

#### Q: What do you hope your readers take away from this book?

The old saw: be careful what you wish for. Warren Sumner, the main character, gets what he wishes for, and it isn't what he had in mind.

#### Q: If your book was to be made into a movie, who are the celebrities that would star in it?

I'd like to cast Andrew Russell Garfield as Warren Sumner & Zac Efron as Jordan Weeks.

#### Q: Do you find it more challenging to write the first book in a series or to write subsequent novels?

The challenges posed by the first book and those that follow are different, but not necessarily easier or harder. The original story has to be created in what is often a long and difficult process as the author creates a brandnew world. While subsequent novels tread on familiar ground, they demand that their story is somehow fresh.

#### Q: Who is the author you most admire in your genre?

As far as horror goes, Dean Koontz because of his use of language.

## Q: If you could ask one author that you admire three questions about their writing, writing process, or books, what would they be?

I've already done this. Between 2014 and 2019, I interviewed over 200 leading authors at raymondbolton.com: names like Alan Dean Foster, Sherrilyn Kenyon, Anne Hillerman, and Mike Resnick. I encourage DE MODE readers to enter a full or partial name in the website's search bar and read whatever interview(s) come up.

#### Q: Are you working on anything at the present?

I'm writing a fantasy novel, tentatively titled The Magi, involving sorcerers that deals with what numerous religions term The End of Days.

#### Q: How do you feel about being featured in DE MODE?

I'm very excited. DE MODE has a discriminating readership. I hope they will find Wraith to be the most-extraordinary supernatural thriller.

# LOST SOUL: BOOK 1 WAR OF DESTINY

#### BY AUTHOR THERESA VAN SPANKEREN

Julia is the daughter of a wealthy family living in 16th-century London. She and her siblings grow up alongside the son of a servant's son, Adam, and she falls in love. Julia's family would not allow such a union, and she is heartbroken when they force her into an arranged marriage. Although her heart longs for Adam, she does what she must. Her husband is neither kind nor merciful, and Julia struggles to keep safe those she cares about and herself.

When tragedy strikes, a stranger arrives and offers her a deal that could forever alter her destiny. Agreement would give her what

she has been denied and granted her fondest wishes: the freedom to do as she pleases, and a reunion with her one true love. There's only one catch. Accepting the deal would also mean joining the Vampire Resistance to fight the King.

**Lost Soul** is the first book of the War of Destiny, and deals with the difficult topics of domestic violence, and the effects it has on the survivor's physical, emotional, and mental health. It has trigger warnings for some scenes of graphic violence.

Book 5 of the series, currently untitled, is scheduled to be out sometime next year. The other books in the series, War of Destiny 2: Pursuit into Darkness, War of Destiny 3: Between Darkness & Light, and War of Destiny 4: Fallen Soul have trigger warnings for scenes of depression and self-harm relating back to the events of Lost Soul and the way Julia deals with other issues and the choices she makes. Throughout the series, Julia learns she may be able to escape her abuser, but not the effects of what she has been through.

Get your copy of 'LOST SOUL' by AUTHOR THERESA VAN SPANKEREN today. Available on Amazon.



THERESA VAN SPANKEREN

#### **JOURNEY AS AN AUTHOR**

Theresa Van Spankeren has been learning to be a wordmaster in one way or another since she was a little girl. Born into a family with a love of reading, she struggled at first to keep up with her peers and other family members. She owes learning the first blocks of reading and writing to her amazing teachers in elementary, jr high, and high school. Once she learned that, she took to trying to create her own stories based on some of her favorite books at the time, such as The BabySitter's Club. Nowadays, it would be called fanfiction, but to seven or eight year old Theresa, it was just stories. She also tried to write mysteries, but discovered they were a lot harder to write than to read!

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She majored in Business Writing at Elmhurst University, and graduated at the start of the Great Recession. She took a variety of writing courses during her time at Elmhurst, including several creative writing courses. She never found a full-time position using that degree, but she's held a variety of positions over the years, including test grading through Measurement Inc. and Pearson

Education, several ghost-writing positions for self-help websites, and most recently worked retail at Harbor Freight. Currently, she has started a job at a IT helpdesk.

She never gave up her love of writing, and pursued it throughout those years. She wrote the original draft to War of Destiny 1:Lost Soul in her senior year of high school. After trying to query it to agents, she learned about self-publishing from a seminar at her local library. She subsequently published four additional books in that series, and is working on more.

Theresa Van Spankeren lives in the suburbs of Chicago, Illinois with her husband and pug. She has been writing since an early age, and came up with the idea for the War of Destiny series in high school. She is also an avid reader of multiple genres. When she isn't reading or writing, she enjoys hiking and swimming. She also loves checking out local haunted places. The writers who have had a large influence and inspiration include Christopher Pike, Karen Robards, L.J. Smith, and Stephen King. She was also inspired by "The X-Files", "Witch Hunter Robin" and "Buffy, the Vampire Slayer".





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#### Q: What inspired you to start writing?

It was something that just came to me when I was a young girl. After reading books, my mind came up with other adventures for the characters I was reading about.

#### Q: What is the most difficult part of your writing process?

Besides coming up with titles, it is translating some of the scenes from my head onto paper. I struggle with how much detail to add.

#### Q: What came first to you — the plot or the characters — and why?

Most of the characters came to me first, because they were developed in part or completely as side characters for a fan fiction story.

#### Q: In your book, which part of the story is your favorite?

My favorite part is Julia's first interactions with the vampires.

#### Q: What is the most surprising thing you discovered while completing your book?

The most surprising was that sometimes saying less was actually saying more.

#### Q: Can you share something with us about the book that isn't in the blurb?

Lost Soul is mainly about the events that lead up to Julia's decision, but it also sets up the conflict with the Vampire King that is the focus of the rest of the series.

#### Q: Does one of the main characters hold a special place in your heart? If so, why?

Several characters in the story hold special places in my heart, but the main character holds 1st place in this story. Julia is a reflection of myself in several ways.

#### Q: What was the inspiration for the story?

The inspiration came from fictionalized aspects of my own life and fanfiction I wrote based on the X-Files, where these characters were secondary characters.

#### Q: What is the significance of the title?

War of Destiny represents the overarching series theme, whereas Lost Soul is about how Julia feels about her place in the world and her own life.

#### Q: Tell us about the process for coming up with the cover.

That's a funny story. Back in high school, I had a CD of fantasy and sci-fi clipart. While browsing through it, I found this image by Jon Hunt. I loved it so much that I spent several years tracking him down to get permission to use it. I thought it was a beautifully abstract way to represent the book.

#### Q: What do you hope your readers take away from this book?

I hope readers take away a sense of hope and resilience after trauma and tragedy that makes them think they can overcome anything, even if help comes from unexpected places. I hope it makes them question what good and evil look like.

#### Q: If your book was to be made into a movie, who are the celebrities that would star in it?

Eek, I have really no idea. I think Adam Campbell could make a good Samuel, but otherwise, I really have no idea.

#### Q: What's your favourite and least favourite part of publishing?

I enjoy having control over my vision with selfpublishing, but getting the word out is my least favorite part of it.

#### Q: Do you find it more challenging to write the first book in a series or to write subsequent novels?

Honestly, it's varied depending on the book. Some were easier to write than the first book in the series, and others were much harder to write than the first book.

#### Q: Who is the author you most admire in your genre?

I would say Anne Rice or Fred Saberhagen, but there are so many influential authors in my genre or related genres.

# Q: If you could ask one author that you admire three questions about their writing, writing process, or books, what would they be?

I would ask how they came up with their characters, what they find most difficult to write, and what they find more difficult – coming up with a title or a blurb.

#### Q: Are you working on anything at the present?

I am currently working on the editing process for book 5. It is currently untitled (I find coming up with titles difficult), but it is planned to be out sometime next year. I am also working on a side book that follows another character and takes place between book 2 and the others of the series.

#### Q: How do you feel about being featured in DE MODE?

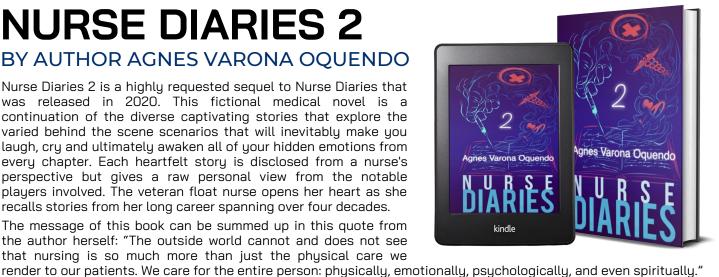
I am extremely honored and excited to have this opportunity to be published in DE MODE. Thank you for this amazing interview. Looking forward to publishing about the other books a well in the series; War of Destiny 2: Pursuit into Darkness, War of Destiny 3: Between Darkness & Light, and War of Destiny 4: Fallen Soul.

#### **NURSE DIARIES 2**

#### BY AUTHOR AGNES VARONA OOUENDO

Nurse Diaries 2 is a highly requested sequel to Nurse Diaries that was released in 2020. This fictional medical novel is a continuation of the diverse captivating stories that explore the varied behind the scene scenarios that will inevitably make you laugh, cry and ultimately awaken all of your hidden emotions from every chapter. Each heartfelt story is disclosed from a nurse's perspective but gives a raw personal view from the notable players involved. The veteran float nurse opens her heart as she recalls stories from her long career spanning over four decades.

The message of this book can be summed up in this quote from the author herself: "The outside world cannot and does not see that nursing is so much more than just the physical care we



This is a collection of fictional stories derived from the author's personal experience as a nurse. Although I have no experience in the medical field I was curious to read this book, and I was pleasantly surprised. It provides insights into the day-to-day life of hospital nursing staff and the physical and emotional strain it often takes on them. Told

at times with a touch of humour, and at times with heartrending emotion, they paint vivid and authentic images of both the characters and the events. Some of the prose can be a little too technical for readers who are not familiar with medical terminology, but the author weaves it cleverly into the narrative in a way that doesn't distract from the story. If you are in the medical field, you can definitely relate to these stories, and if you are not you can now see a different side of all the workings going on within the hospital setting and it's staff, understanding it's not always what you see and what you don't see!! A great read for all!!

Get your copy of 'NURSE DIARIES 2' by AUTHOR AGNES VARONA OQUENDO today. Available on amazon.com



**AGNES VARONA OQUENDO** 

#### **JOURNEY AS AN AUTHOR**

Agnes Varona Oquendo, RN, Author is a native New Yorker who has worked many years as a nurse. She describes her most vital life role as mother, and now grandmother; most notably known to her immediate family as Mimi. As a longtime strong advocate for women's health and education, it inevitably drew her attention to becoming an avid long-distance runner and athlete, loving and learning a humbleness for the sport.

As an impressionable young girl, she was helplessly lost within a fantasy realm of books while spending all her free time within the cryptic walls of the local public library. For well over the span of four decades, her primary focus evolved around family, running and a very long career as a clinical nurse and then as an educator. Although her life was quite full and very busy, she still found herself longing and craving to rekindle that once-forgotten dream of writing a book. In 2001, she survived cancer. In her desperation to help those find hope in coping with a similar circumstance, she shares her own story in her first self-published

book, "Running Against Cancer," released in 2018.

"Running Against Cancer," is a depiction of her own personal experience in receiving the devastating cancer diagnosis, the despairing, disfiguring treatment and a recovery that eventually lead to an actual run from New York to Miami for breast cancer lasting 38 days. Since then, she describes herself as a multi-genre author after releasing four more diverse fictional books; My Shorts, Dark Whispers of a Serial Killer, Nurse Diaries and Nurse Diaries 2. She has been notably quoted, "Authorship has been a girlhood dream for me, and now I can proudly add the title of multi-genre author to my repertoire."

Nurse Diaries is a fictional novel that shares a very small fragment of one nurse's professional experience, nurse life and times during her long nursing career, as she recalls it. After working in the field for over four decades, Angela remembers it all as if it were yesterday; the memorable, the good, the not so good, the sad, and the very ugly during her journey down memory medical lane. This book will uncover many raw, deep emotions translated through her stories.





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#### Q: What inspired you to start writing?

Books and reading have always been an integral part of my young life and up till now. I was helplessly lost within my own fantasy realm of books inside the cryptic walls of my favourite NYC Public Library. As a teen, I found added comfort in journaling. Then as an adult, I took pride in writing my nursing narratives during and at the end of my shifts for over four decades.

#### Q: What is the most difficult part of your writing process?

Writing was and remained a hidden dream for me, for decades. After surviving cancer, eighteen years later I wrote my first book. Even then, my own memories were still raw and traumatic, but I wanted to share my cancer experience, treatment and recovery with others in hopes of providing some hope and comfort. I love the actual writing process itself. It is everything that comes after the writing is complete, I find most difficult, the dreaded book formatting and marketing.

#### Q: What came first to you — the plot or the characters — and why?

In my newest book, "Nurse Diaries 2," the stories and the characters are widely varied but it draws the reader into the eccentric yet emotional whirlwind of a ride along with the hospital staff, patients and every other player involved. As I reread each chapter, it still draws out so many emotions from me, from tears, happiness, anger and so much more. It starts out on a prisoner ward in chapter one: The Prisoners, From Way Within and then chapter two with The Goodfellas.

#### Q: What was the most surprising thing you discovered while completing your book?

My loyal readers encouraged me to write Nurse Diaries 2 after the overwhelming response and love that I received from my first book, Nurse Diaries. I am ecstatic that even my readers who are not involved in the medical field, love the Nurse Diaries series as well.

#### Q: Can you share with us something about the book that isn't in the blurb?

The book blurb describes Nurse Diaries in a general fashion on how it will tear away at your emotions from chapter to chapter through the eyes of the characters. It will do just that, but it does resemble real lives, real emotions and real circumstances that will not only find a place in your heart but will make you appreciate life that much more.

#### Q: What is the significance of the title?

I think that the title is appropriate although the stories represent the entire team. We worked, lived, and loved as a team and a family whenever we walked through the doors.

#### Q: What do you hope your readers take away from this book?

I hope that while reading Nurse Diaries, the reader can close their eyes and experience all the emotions and senses that my characters bring to life. As a writer, this is something that I hope to achieve and accomplish.

#### Q: If your book was to be made into a movie, who are the celebrities that would star in it?

As one of the main characters in Nurse Diaries, Angela, would have to be played by a strong, athletic Latina mix actress.

#### Q: What's your favourite and least favourite part of publishing?

My favourite part of the publishing process will always be writing and seeing my finished work. For me, writing is like releasing your soul onto paper. Seeing the finished product is just purely satisfying.

#### Q: Do you find it more challenging to write the first book in a series or to write subsequent novels?

I never intended to write a series for any of my books. When my readers requested more Nurse Diaries stories, I had to oblige. Writing the second book was just as easy as writing the first book for me. It flowed easily as I sat and wrote.

#### Q: Who is the author you most admire in your genre?

There are so many talented authors that I love to read. But I honestly always loved the style of Ernest Hemingway.

# Q: If you could ask one author that you admire three questions about their writing, writing process, or books, what would they be?

I love reading books written by indie authors as well as established authors. Besides enjoying the story, plot and characters, I am amazed at how different each author's writing style is. That is the most important question I would ask about their writing style.

#### Q: Are you working on anything at the present?

I am working on my next project or my sixth book. It is in the early stages as of this moment. It will be completely different from my other works.

#### Q: How do you feel about being featured in DE MODE?

I am very excited and honoured to have DE MODE feature my book Nurse Diaries 2. I am extremely proud of my work and look forward to sharing my stories with everyone who may be interested. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.

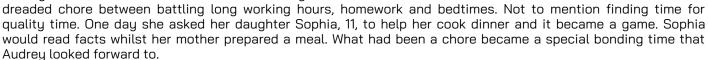
# THE ULTIMATE SEASONAL LUNCHBOX

#### BY AUTHOR AUDREY SCHAERRER

More than 50 lunchbox recipes for the whole family made with seasonal produce. The book also contains food fun facts and curiosities to Inspire fun and bonding in the kitchen. All the Recipes are made by a qualified nutritionist and mother Audrey Schaerrer.

A book aimed at both parents and children to read and create healthy food together.

Like many working parents, professional nutritionist and mother Audrey Schaerrer found that at times cooking dinner to be a



Audrey began to experiment, moving from cooking dinner together to creating a delicious, healthy and nutritionally balanced packed lunch with the left - overs from the night before, which her daughter loved. In a way extending the bonding connection and good memories of the evening to school and office lunch times.

The Ultimate Seasonal Lunchbox includes more than 50 fun, healthy and delicious lunchbox recipes. This is the first publication in a series of four, each characterised by a particular season. The present publication is inspired by autumn. Winter, spring, and summer will be following. Some recipes in this book include Japanese-style autumn noodles, mushroom pie, as well as chickpea and sweet potato patties.

Get your copy of 'THE ULTIMATE SEASONAL LUNCHBOX' today. Available on Amazon & Google Books.



AUDREY SCHAERRER

#### **JOURNEY AS AN AUTHOR**

Audrey Schaerrer attended the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) in Indianapolis, United States of America, and qualified in Fitness Management, Nutritional Therapy and the Science of Exercise. She has been practicing as a nutritional therapist and food specialist in Europe for over twenty years. Audrey is a mother to an 11-year-old girl.

Audrey's mission is to help busy parents and individuals lead a healthier lifestyle with fuss-free, varied, delicious meal plans and products, to introduce delicious foods that enhance physical and mental health, as well as general well-being, and to help clients look after their health naturally, lowering cholesterol, controlling blood pressure, and properly tackling functional gastrointestinal disorders using a naturally healthier lifestyle.

Audrey's view is that, like medicine, food can help avoid many illnesses in adults and children including diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, depression, Cancer and heart-related illnesses.

Her core belief in raising children through example has driven her to write this book and create an online nutrition platform which is accessible to all persons who wish to enjoy a healthier lifestyle.

Effected by childhood bullying around her weight, Audrey felt passionately that by cooking with our children and talking to them about food will help to instill healthy relationships with food and our bodies in a society where toxic narratives with both are still prevalent. All the recipes make a complete balanced and nutritious meal to enjoy at dinner time or packed for lunch in a portable box.

In Audrey's book 'THE ULTIMATE SEASONAL LUNCHBOX', the recipes are carefully chosen to excite both parents and kids. Some recipes include Greek pitta pockets, Vietnamese stir fry noodles, hoisin duck rolls and rainbow confetti slices. This lunchbox cookbook has a variety of healthy, tasty recipes with easy-to-follow instructions. At the start of the book you find out a little more about the seasonal products that are available in autumn (the season of this book), it goes in-depth about a few of the products and their benefits.







THE ULTIMATE

SEASONAL

THE UITIMATE

SEASONAL LUNCHBOX

AUDREY SCHAERRER

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#### Q: What inspired you to start writing?

The belief that looking at our health through food can have a huge positive impact on the environment. Imagine if we all choose seasonal and short self-life products, the impact on the CO2 footprint would be huge. Imagine if we do it in reverse. Lower cholesterol or high blood pressure or diabetes by doing something more significant for the environment? Imagine if our daily lunch and that of our kids were made with the intention to save the planet. What a positive example for our children. My daughter and I spend precious quality time preparing meals together. We talk about important issues and involving her in this process makes her interested in the food she consumes. I wrote this book with lots of love imagining families spending quality time around the kitchen counter.

#### Q: What is the most difficult part of your writing process?

The most difficult part of this project was choosing the right recipes. I have a clear mission- to inspire people to switch to a healthier lifestyle.

#### Q: What came first to you — the plot or the characters — and why?

The concept because of my strong belief in health and environment correlation.

#### Q: Tell us about the process for coming up with the cover.

I wanted to show how an enticing lunch box could make people happy and ease stress on a tough day. A wholesome meal is like a giant hug!

#### Q: What was the most surprising thing you discovered while completing your book?

After my recipes, there is a section called Food by Provenance. Fun facts about where some recipes originated. It was very surprising to me while researching for this section the importance food had in some historical events.

Food is truly life but unfortunately, these days fast food is mostly sickness and depression.

#### Q: What role does a well-balanced diet play in one's kids' life?

A healthy diet is essential for kids and teens because of their increased nutritional needs during this particular time of development. Especially, Adolescence is a time of growth for children, both from the physical and mental aspects. The food they eat as youngsters may impact their health when they reach adulthood. Most importantly, healthy eating during adolescence promotes good food habits to last a lifetime. However, the recipes in my book are not only suitable for kids but for the whole family. That is the point to save time but eat

healthy meals all together at work or at school. Saving time on preparation is a strong motivator to choose a healthy lifestyle.

#### Q: What do you hope your readers take away from this book?

That a chore like cooking after a long day can be transformed into quality time for the family. Learning about food can have a positive effect on the food we choose to consume. Most importantly that seasonal healthy food for us can have a big impact on the health of the planet.

#### Q: In your book 'THE ULTIMATE SEASONAL LUNCH BOX', which recipe is your daughter's favourite?

There are a few: omega poke bowl, oat and raisin biscuits, chai seed pudding and the Japanese-style Autumn noodles.

#### Q: What's your favourite and least favourite part of publishing?

My favourite part is sharing my knowledge and helping parents inspire their children. My least favourite is not putting as many pictures as I wanted.

#### Q: Do you find it more challenging to write the first book in a series or to write subsequent novels?

I wrote all the series, I could not stop, I loved the process and learned so much about food history. Will release Spring, Summer, and Winter later on though.

#### Q: Who is the author you most admire in your genre?

I have many but I feel Jamie Oliver makes easy recipes that help people feel less intimidated in the kitchen.

## Q: If you could ask one author that you admire three questions about their writing, writing process, or books, what would they be?

- How do you choose your recipes?
- What inspires new dishes?
- Do you include ingredients you do not eat?

#### Q: Are you working on anything at the present?

I am planning a set of talks to create awareness of health, food and the link with our environment. A new website.

#### Q: How do you feel about being featured in DE MODE?

I feel very excited to be on DE MODE. It would be very cool to make eating healthy feel cool and fashionable. Eating healthy and looking after the environment are not the same as dieting. Fad diets can be as unhealthy as any fast foods. We must keep teenagers away from skinny at all costs mentality.

#### **HOW DEEP THE OCEAN**

#### BY AUTHOR GLORIA LUCAS

Why'd you leave me alone, Austin? This is so hard.

How Deep the Ocean paints the portrait of a widow beginning a year after her husband's suicide. Drawing from personal experiences, Gloria Lucas crafts an intricate story of loss and the impact of trauma.

One year after Mia's husband completes suicide, guilt and loneliness continue to follow her the everyday. Austin's loss takes up all the negative spaces in her home. It presses heavily against her as she navigates to being a single mother while climbing the corporate ladder. She does her best to pretend everything is better but she can't help but feel she's doing everything wrong. In this story, Gloria takes an unflinching look at mental illness,



trauma, and healing in the aftermath of the unthinkable. The story also outlines how children's grief can look like, as many mistakes their struggles for the simple actions of a misbehaving child.

In this story, Gloria takes an unflinching look at mental illness, trauma, and healing in the aftermath of the unthinkable. The story also outlines how children's grief can look like, as many mistakes their struggles for the simple actions of a misbehaving child. Tantrums are labelled as the symptoms of a spoiled child, not the cries for help of a hurting one. Difficult behavior can be judged by outsiders as proof parents are not disciplining children as they should instead of behavior that is caused by deep trauma and grief. Many times, difficult behavior is simply the outcome of children having a difficult time.

Loss is almost universal and so many are touched by it. How Deep the Ocean explores this experience through a lens that is truthful but also one that is optimistic. While it dives into many difficult topics it also shows the power of love, friendship, and healing.

Get your copy of 'HOW DEEP THE OCEAN' by AUTHOR GLORIA LUCAS today. Available on Amazon & Google.



**GLORIA LUCAS** 

#### **JOURNEY AS AN AUTHOR**

Gloria Lucas began writing shortly after discovering her love of reading. She grew up as the oldest of four in a single parent household. Her mother usually left for work before she and her siblings climbed onto the school bus and returned late in the evening. Reading was an escape and writing was a natural next step. In middle school, when tasked to interview someone in a coveted career field, she chose an author. However, doubt handed her realistic goals and, due to growing up below the poverty line, she put aside the idea of becoming a novelist and instead decided to enlist in the United States Navy.

Even so, she never fully gave up writing and privately penned poems and short stories about the people she met and experiences she led. She would meet her husband in the military and they would go on to have two children. His death led to an early departure and she would end up serving seven years in the Navy. Afterward, due to a series of circumstances, she would end up being a birth doula, midwife's apprentice, and eventually a medical assistant and

patient educator in a full-spectrum women's clinic.

Her first novel, How Deep the Ocean, is inspired by the events of her husband's suicide and her subsequent life afterwards. Gloria regards reading as an escape and adventure from real life, whereas writing she sees as cathartic. It took her almost a decade to feel brave enough to begin writing for the public eye and initially only published personal essays. Many exist on the Medium online platform. One of her first essays was on her experience with severe prenatal prenatal depression and anxiety. Her first published short story is *The Man Who Turned into a Mountain* and was accepted by Palaver Journal. It is available as a free download on her website. Her foray into romance was short-lived and her contribution exists within the limited-edition anthology Fiesta Nights. Gloria enjoys writing about trauma and the human condition. Some samples of her work can be found on her blog. She holds an MBA in Healthcare Management and works in the healthcare industry. When she isn't writing, one can find her hiking portions of the Appalachian trail with her fiancé, playing with her four children, or watching cheesy paranormal videos on YouTube.







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#### Q: What inspired you to start writing?

I find writing very cathartic. Most of the time, I write because I feel like I would explode if I didn't. The difference at this age is that I'm finally brave enough to expose it to critique.

#### Q: What is the most difficult part of your writing process?

Oh gosh, can I only pinpoint one thing? Organization, perhaps. I work full-time in the safety department for pharmaceutical companies, I have four children who demand a lot of attention, and have a partner and home to care for. That means the time I have to write requires focus and organization. I can't only sit and begin writing. I have to know what I will write, etc, otherwise, it can mean I sit and stare blankly at a computer screen.

#### Q: What came first to you — the plot or the characters — and why?

For How Deep the Ocean, the plot came first. It heavily draws from my own experience and, in a sense, I was writing for a 25-year-old me who was lost and reeling so soon after her husband's death. I wanted to write a story that captured the rawness—even ugliness—of grief and mourning.

#### Q: In your book, which part of the story is your favourite?

My favorite part is likely the dynamic between Mia and her best friend Camille. Camille was so fun to write. I love how fiercely loyal she is to Mia. Plus, I love her feistiness.

#### Q: What was the most surprising thing you discovered while completing your book?

Probably how much I had to cut out. There were some scenes I really loved that I cut because they didn't make sense for the purpose of the book. It was so difficult to do so but I think the story does so much better without them. Since it's my first novel, I didn't realize how sad I would feel when I whittled it down.

#### Q: Can you share with us something about the book that isn't in the blurb?

Hmmm. I don't want to provide any spoilers but I will say that any casual mention of taboo topics like abortion or promiscuous characters (female, of course) is done so purposely and without much explanation because I feel it's important to remove the stigma behind it by discussing it. And by discussing it without the pressure of providing justification.

#### Q: What is the significance of the title?

How Deep the Ocean was thought up from a feeling. Grief, depression, mourning....it feels like drowning. It feels like sinking forever. So....how deep is the ocean of loss? I suppose, in a sense, no one knows.

#### Q: What do you hope your readers take away from this book?

It is a book full of difficult topics and I'm hoping that people can understand that grief is experienced differently by everyone. I also want everyone to understand that mourning can last months or a year or much, much longer. Grief can be ugly. And that's okay. Trauma can make past traumas bubble up. And that's normal.

#### Q: If your book was to be made into a movie, who are the celebrities that would star in it?

I would love it if a Mexican actress could play Mia because that's what she is. However, if I'm supposed to choose someone, she is Ana de Armas and Austin: Jay Ryan.

#### Q: What's your favourite and least favourite part of publishing?

I love seeing the finished product. I do not like the marketing part. I'm the worst. I'm borderline apologetic every time I mention my book: "Maybe you might like to buy this, possibly, it's probably okay, acceptable, I don't know. You know what? Forget it. You don't have to read it. Unless you absolutely want to. And then I'm very appreciative."

#### Q: Do you find it more challenging to write the first book in a series or to write subsequent novels?

I've written one novel, but I did write a short story for an anthology. And the pressure was on. And I hated it. So, I would think the subsequent novels will be more difficult.

#### Q: Who is the author you most admire in your genre?

I'm terrible with names, so I apologize. I have so many authors I love. However, recently I read Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's book Americanah and really enjoyed it.

## Q: If you could ask one author that you admire three questions about their writing, writing process, or books, what would they be?

- Are outlines really necessary?
- If you're an introvert like me, how do you prepare for book signings?
- What other genre would you love to write?

#### Q: Are you working on anything at the present?

My second work-in-progress is a story about an asylum seeker who reaches the United States with her baby boy. My third is a thriller that follows a sex worker who fights her way out of being trafficked by fatal means.

#### Q: How do you feel about being featured in DE MODE?

I'm grateful for the opportunity to spread the word. I am very proud of How Deep the Ocean and am extremely grateful to everyone who gives it a chance.

#### **SATURN**

#### BY AUTHOR & POETESS SUSY GASCA

Susy Gasca has written a brilliant debut poetry collection that compels readers to reflect and take a meaningful approach to their life. The collection, "Saturn" is an assembly of poems that embrace the concept of self-love during difficult experiences. The work is powerful and filled with intense emotions which are conveyed through a kaleidoscope of experiences in the form of free verse poetry. Each poem tells its own story but the collection flows effortlessly to demonstrate the complexity and unison of life's journey. Throughout the anthology, readers get to witness rebirth and a heartbreaking love story between Saturn and the Moon which is a revival story in many ways.



Heartstrings are tugged as love in its purest form is put to the test in the form of the Universe's Saturn and the Moon. This love will mould, challenge, and propel the reader into a first love meets true love whirlwind adventure. Bringing out the highest and lowest versions of each lover can be relatable to any human that has ever loved. "Saturn" exemplifies that love isn't always simple, it's a decision to be fought for and a decision teaching one to stay. Separation is trivial when it comes to a lifetime bond that is meant to last.

Gasca's approach to the human condition will have readers contemplating their lives and choices. The collection will hold different meanings for each reader but permeates with the foundational aspects of life including love, growth, and happiness. "Saturn" is a safe place to question important elements within our own perceptions of human existence. It gently challenges the exploration of beliefs while stepping into the shoes of the writer. "The recurring LBGTQ+ themes presented in "Saturn" will resonate with those who struggle and have been marginalized. The book is a rallying cry that celebrates diversity, inclusion and most importantly Self-Love."

Get your copy of 'SATURN' by AUTHOR & POETESS SUSY GASCA today. Available on Amazon and Google Books.



**SUSY GASCA** 

#### **JOURNEY AS AN AUTHOR & POETESS**

Susy Gasca is a Hispanic woman in her twenties residing in the state of Arizona USA. She grew up in a conservative Christian household and is an active member of the LGBTQ+ community. She enjoys volunteer work during her spare time. She also works as a full-time nurse and enjoys helping, educating, and caring for patients. Prior to becoming a published writer, Gasca was a college student for years and decided to keep that learning mentality as she navigated different avenues. She enjoys reading literary fiction, poetry, contemporary fiction, and many other genres.

About 2 years ago she picked up writing as a form of therapy. It helped her to express feelings and mitigate anxiety in a healing way. Gasca wants to continue to find ways to reach and help heal people. She is also very open about her own healing journey as can be witnessed in her writing. Within her community she's a mental health advocate.

Although, Gasca fully advises and supports the use of professional therapy to best aid those struggling with their mental health, "Saturn" is the writer's rawest expression of emotional solo therapy. "Saturn" is also Gasca's debut poetry collection as a published writer. Gasca published her debut poetry collection as a self-love act for herself in hopes that it may also reach and comfort others grappling with any of the pressures involved with human existence. The poetess writes so that the human condition may be explored by any person that has experienced emotion (man, woman, etc). The story of Saturn and the Moon is intended to be relatable to all people. Straight or gay, "Saturn" is Gasca's take on the universal language of love, heartache, healing, and redemption.

In her spare time, she writes to unwind and understand. Free-verse poetry is the genre that she prefers when mitigating and expressing complex emotions and ideas. "Saturn" is the first of more books to come from Gasca. The next poetry collection is intended to be just as organic and raw as the debut. More information on the next novel to be determined soon.

FOLLOW AUTHOR & POETESS SUSY GASCA







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#### Q: What inspired you to start writing 'Saturn'?

In the span of 2 years 'Saturn' wrote itself. The poems in this collection were not intended to be published when they were written. I was looking for healing when I wrote the poems in 'Saturn'. It's a very personal self-healing journey that I then later decided to compile together and publish as a "pass love on" movement.

#### Q: What is the most difficult part of your writing process?

Editing is the most difficult part of my writing process. I like to play around with words a lot to find the simplest way to express the most emotion. Even before I decided to publish, I would constantly re-write to find better ways to express my emotions. I wanted to sit with the pain and unravel it.

#### Q: Who are some of the biggest influences in your poetry?

I'd like to acknowledge the poets who introduced me to the world of poetry, such as William Shakespeare and Emily Dickinson. Modern confessional poets: Rupi Kaur, Courtney Peppernell, and R. H. Sin are among the biggest influences on my writing style.

#### Q: Do you think you were meant to be a poet?

I believe that I'm an accidental poet. I had a lot of pent-up emotion and poetry was the healthiest way I was able to mitigate it. It allowed me to breathe. Although it remains a continuous journey, it also was a large catalyst that spurred my self-love and healing journey.

#### Q: How do your poems develop? Please guide us through the stages of a poem.

Every poem is unique. Most start off with an emotion and a previous experience that lays out a story. These emotions are stripped bare initially. I tend to write what I think I'm feeling so that it is told through a different person, place, or thing. The poems tend to write themselves once the theme feels right.

#### Q: What was the most surprising thing you discovered while completing your book?

I was very surprised to realize how much time editing would take in comparison to all other aspects of the book. I wanted to be proud of my work and not rush it. Out of all the stages in the world of publishing, editing was by far the most tedious and time-consuming.

#### Q: Can you share with us something about the book that isn't in the blurb?

The coming-out inner turmoil in "Half-Assed" was the inner turmoil I experienced for about 15 years before I had the courage to come out as part of the LGBTQ+ community in real life. It took time to find the courage to be authentic, this poem may resonate with anyone

desperately trying to fit a mould not meant for them.

#### Q: What is the significance of the title?

Quite simply put, "Saturn" is the planet I resonated with the most when writing these poems. Thus, "Saturn" is the storybook version of myself and maybe the readers themselves. Saturn is all of us.

#### Q: Tell us about the process of coming up with the cover.

My good friend, Hannah Gelo did all the illustrations for the interior of the book! We've known each other for many years, and I trusted her with the creation of the cover illustration. To bring the illustration and my vision for "Saturn" to life I had a talented cover designer, C.S. Fritz, get the cover professionally ready for publication.

#### Q: What do you hope your readers take away from this book?

I hope that readers take away a new perspective. Perhaps an open-minded approach to the direction of their own lives or their own beliefs. Learning, healing, and challenging ourselves is a healthy skills I hope to pass on. How far in life can they go? That's what I want my readers to ask themselves after reading "Saturn".

#### Q: If your poetries were to be made into a music video, who are the celebrities that would star in it?

I think it would be an interesting twist to the story to have the "Saturn" music video set in the 1950's with the characters of Saturn and the Moon played by actresses Marilyn Monroe and Audrey Hepburn. Talk about cinematic excellence!

#### Q: If you could ask 3 Q's from one author that you admire, what would they be?

Apart from poetry, one of my favorite novels is The Nightingale by Kristen Hannah. I would love to ask her; How did you perfect the details of your novel to fit that time era so seamlessly? How did you decide when your novel was ready for publishing? What part of the writing process was most difficult for you?

#### Q: Are you working on anything new?

Now, I am focusing on "Saturn". I am writing, but it's all just therapy at this point. The rest will come soon and is not intended on being forced. It'll flow as it needs to. Stay tuned!

#### Q: How do you feel about your book being published in DE MODE?

I feel so honored and blessed! This is such an incredible experience. DE MODE is such a gem for any human in the globe that can get a copy. The information is valuable and inspirational. I'm so very excited to be a part of it! Thank you, DE MODE!

# SPIRITS OF THE ICE FOREST

#### BY AUTHOR MAX DAVINE

Spirits of the Ice Forest is Max Davine's take on the historical Icelandic attempts to tame what is now Canad's Newfoundland. Focusing on the latter years of the attempted conquest, it begins with the first expedition of King Lief Eiriksson Thorvald Eiriksson and the brothers Helgi and Finnbogi who, having battled a native family and fragmented into two clans, come to hostilities between each other. Seeing a chance to seize power and approximate her brothers' familial prestige, bastard half-sibling Freydis Eiriksdottir brings about the massacre of Helgi and Finnbogi's camp, only to



be exiled when she takes it upon herself to massacre the prisoners taken thereafter.

Seeing the invaders weakened, the local indigenous tribe of Oonban calls upon other groups to come together and mount a full-scale raid on the Icelandic stronghold of Straumfjord. By the time they managed to gather a significant force, Freydis has bargained with her half-brother Lief to be sent back to what they call Vinland and, along with merchant lord Thorfinn Karlsefini, repels the native attack. Despite her unpopularity with her own people, she also wins Thorvald's sword Gunnlogi and the chiefdom of the Vinland clans. Almost immediately, she announces her plans to conquer the natives. Defeated and demoralized, the natives attempt to go about their normal lives. Demoduit, the strong-willed daughter of Oonban, is honoured when she survives a bear attack.

This is the story of the last, desperate attempt by the Vikings to tame what is now Canada's Newfoundland under their formidable Chieftain Freydis Eiriksdottir, one of the most notoriously fearsome shieldmaidens to ever have lived. And of the three natives of those ancient forests, Shanawdithit, Madawaak and Demasduit, who led their people to rise against an overwhelming force. This is the tale of the Spirits of the Ice Forest.

Get your copy of 'SPIRITS OF THE ICE FOREST' today. Available on Amazon, Google Books & Walmart.

**MAX DAVINE** 

#### **JOURNEY AS AN AUTHOR**

Born in 1989 in Australia, Max Davine grew up reading and writing and worked after school with students at RMIT's film school, helping with their projects. At age 18 he worked with a Los Angeles based production company on several projects and in 2010 joined the Melbourne Actor's Lab as a student of Peter Kalos. After three years of acting roles in theatre, film, and television, Davine published his first novel, Terra Domina, in 2012. Angel Valence followed in 2013 and The Red Legion and Off The Map both in 2014 before the bestseller Dino Hunt in 2015. During a three-year beak he earned a Master of Literature before returning to publishing in 2018 with Mighty Mary with Tamarind Hill Press. Spirits of the Ice Forest followed in 2021. Davine has also published A Patchwork Nation on the Mythrill App and executive produced the giallo film My Cherry Pie in 2022.

Despite being criticized for the unflinching and often graphic manner in which violence and cruelty are portrayed in his works, Davine's novels explore and

portray, often in shocking detail, the destructive consequences aggression and hatred have on the human mind and the peril of choosing acts of violence where the heart is concerned. They are known juxtapose nature's beauty with its brutality and be deeply nihilistic where it comes to human society and law. Davine's novels are evocatively written even given the constant changes to his prose style over the years and are rooted in a fastidious attention to historical detail, the result of often painstaking research. Despite the dark tone of his work, readers often find life-affirming sentimentality cocooned in the sometimes overwhelming bleakness of the work's overall tone. Max Davine's writing style really suited this genre, whilst keeping the focus on the main characters the story still moves at a good pace.

Away from books Davine is also a volunteer firefighter and having served for a number of years in Victoria's fire-prone Dandenong Ranges now trains new recruits; a lover of the ocean and coast guard volunteer and training officer; and a teacher of creative writing and literacy, mainly to disadvantaged women. He also holds a Master of Andragogy, is a fan of historical fencing, and has co-written two television pilots.







#### Q: What inspired you to start writing?

Reading, mostly. I found a lot of solace in reading. Australia is a very small country, not geographically but culturally - I should say, white Australia is anyway - it's very narrowminded in its attitudes, vastly suburban, largely traditionalist when it comes to the family, and suffocatingly simplistic. Novels were like a gateway drug to travel before I could go travelling on my own. They showed me that there was this big wide world out there full of peoples and cultures and arts and pursuits of the sublime that just opened so much up for me. For my mind. And they showed history in a way historians can't. Archaeology shows us Troy might have existed and maybe Achaeans did besiege it, but only Homer's Iliad can ever tell us why. That's so important. The why. Why did they do all that? Fiction might not show history as it happened but it shows motivation. I wanted to do that for other people.

#### Q: What is the most difficult part of your writing process?

Getting the freaking words down, man. Everything else is a blast.

#### Q: What came first to you — the plot or the characters — and why?

-The setting. Always. Everything that ever happened – real, imagined, history or fantasy – all happened in a place. It all starts where. Jaws were never going to work if it was set in Oklahoma. The place is a very underrated aspect of preparation, but in acting it's everything. It informs the whole performance. So I emphasize it in writing – this thing happened here and that's why these people are involved and that's why this is what's at stake. Your setting informs your stakes. And if you don't have stakes, you don't have a story.

#### Q: What was the most surprising thing you discovered while completing your book?

-The responses I get. A lot of people sort-of seem to admire Freydis a lot and I don't know why.

#### Q: In your book, which part of the story is your favourite?

-Spirits is supposed to be a lament to human violence. So the scenes with Madawaak and the Icelandic child Erlanh are my favourite because I think they show that horror and that revulsion I feel toward war and killing most effectively and emotionally, although they were by no means pleasant to write.

#### Q: What is the significance of the title?

-I like it. It's evocative, I think – all these people are dead now. Turns out it's also an episode of Walking with Dinosaurs, which I'm fine with.

Q: Does one of the main characters hold a

#### special place in your heart? If so, why?

They all do. I had to sympathize with all of them, even Freydis. There's a reason she is the way she is and, even though a lot of what she does is terrible, there's a reason why she does it. That's probably why people receive her warmly in spite of what she does. But that to me is a good villain. You need to give them strong motivation. Villains should show us the dark parts of our heroes by reflecting them back and in doing so, show us as well.

#### **Q:** What was the inspiration for the story? The Vinland sagas, obviously.

#### Q: Tell us about the process for coming up with the cover.

I get my covers designed by a cover artist. So, I got no idea about it. You'd have to ask the cover artist. I don't do any of that.

#### Q: What do you hope your readers take away from this book?

I hope it makes them feel something and think lots of things.

#### Q: If your book was to be made into a movie, who are the celebrities that would star in it?

I really hope there are no authors out there who think of this sort of thing while they're writing. What a waste of energy.

#### Q: What's your favourite and least favourite part of publishing?

My favourite part is the work. My least favourite part is the work.

#### Q: Do you find it more challenging to write the first book in a series or to write subsequent novels?

I don't know. If I ever do a series, ask me again. If you mean Red Legion, which was a sequel to Angel Valence, I would say... I don't know.

#### Q: Who is the author you most admire in your genre?

Humans should not be admired.

## Q: If you could ask one author that you admire three questions about their writing, writing process, or books, what would they he?

Admire as an author? I don't know. I'd ask them what they read. I probably wouldn't need to though – it's usually obvious. Daphne du Maurier clearly read Emily Bronte and Cormac McCarthy clearly read Daphne du Maurier. Books are made of other books.

#### Q: Are you working on anything at the present?

Yes. I am working but would not like to share it presently. I got many projects on my table but would love to share when it comes out. Till then enjoy reading 'Spirits of the Ice Forest'.

# LONDON ASHION **EEK** 16-20 Sept 2022

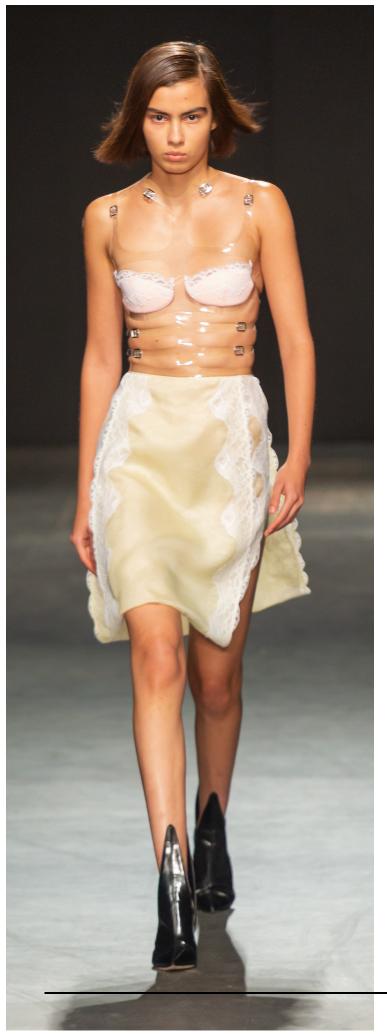
WRITTEN BY JEANNE LEA DELAHOUSIE, GUEST WRITER (FASHION) & PHOTOGRAPHED BY MICHAEL FOUST, PHOTO-JOURNALIST (DE MODE)

In grievances of the Queen's passing, London Fashion Week took the time to postpone many of the runway and presentation showcases. All in Royal fashion; the designers still came together to honor and celebrate the life of Queen Elizabeth.

The UK native, Christopher Kane held a moment of silence in honour of Her Majesty. Accompanied by his subversive collection, Kane draws out the excess and boils us down to the perfumed proxy of life and death. With his frank gestures to sexuality, the transparent clear vinyl body braces, and lace trimmed double-sided skirts, fabric that depicted the soft tissues of muscles onto the silhouette developed a sense of authority to each movement. Reconstructing femininity has always been a focal point in Kane's collections; this time built by blunt muscle tissues and clear rib cages, which asks the question: "what really lies underneath?" Are we slicing the barrier of clothes as they go beyond the skin? The steady hand incision outlined the breast bone, cupping in soft foam green and light pink dewy silk remained obvious, resembling such a delicious pirouette cake that would be savoured at high tea. Gracing his true nature to one of the queen's worldly displays. Kane is giving us a visual of what is inside, and how toilsome textures become capable. How his literal "body of work" is perceived and dissected. How the woman's image is grappled between sexuality and sheath, the dexterity



#### $DEMODE \,|\, \text{London fashion week}$











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#### DEMODE | LONDON FASHION WEEK

for both, and Kane's nature to do the incomprehensible. Where the printed florals cyclically compromise in Kane's collections, formulate naturalist homages, mentioned in his note: "they are symbolic for life and death, celebrations and condolences", through the use of juxtaposed materials. An honest disrupter in 'arcane' fashion, Christopher can take a casual message, as we have seen in previous collections like "More Joy", and carefully composes his orchestra to a respected crescendo, tethered to the rhythm of time simultaneously knowing when to break boundaries creating new textures and reinstating old ones.

Christopher Kane SS23 Collection | Photo: Michael Foust, Photo-Journalist (DE MODE)







#### DEMODE | LONDON FASHION WEEK

ot alone in his lace and bodycon seduction, early Sunday morning on September 18th, Albanian womenswear designer, Nensi Dojaka, premiered her new SS 2023 collection for London Fashion week.



The 2021 LVMH winner for young designers is known for her intellectually articulated use of sheer malleable fabrics and delicate cutouts illuminating the intimate spaces of the female body. The architecturally defined butterfly and heart motifs shaped the bodice and wire details. Small delicate ruffles prove sage wisdom from mannequin to movement. Dojaka has spoken about her use of intimacy and vulnerability as a feminine strength and superpower. She deeply understands the woman she designs for. One that is smart, sexy and spitfire sharp. There is a cunning edge to Dojaka's use of dainty fibres; she dresses the femme up to this dauntless delicacy.





#### $\overline{DEMODE}$ | London Fashion week

The newness of colour keeps her designs playful, while still harbouring the quality of technicalities she is known for. Honouring a range of body types this season, we are witnessing her expansion and versatility. Allowing for a new way of "wearing your heart on your sleeve", she intrinsically knows the finite callings of a woman's body and the exquisite details of lingerie fabrics and textures.

Casting an open net on sexuality and sophistication, through fine lines and fluidity, Nensi Dojaka once again captures the intimate strength of a woman.

The world of fashion has demanded a rise in diversity from all sides of the runway. The audience, the designers, the models and the collections being built, are in an uproar for liberty. Families bring their children, models with physical disabilities and a range of emotions on and off the stage. London might have lost their queen but never their crown in fashion.



Nensi Dojaka SS23 Collection | Photo: Michael Foust, Photo-Journalist (DE MODE)





# "Iridescence"



Vz Perfection by Vaishali marked her presence in London Fashion Week for the 4th time with the launch of her latest collection "Iridescence". Iridescence an optical phenomenon where the surface appears to gradually change colours as the angle of view changes, also highlights the intense dichotomy where we see bold colours reflecting our desire to embrace life with full vigour combining with an array of neutral and natural tones that satisfies our need for harmony and tranquillity. Vaishali's latest collection "Iridescence" brings this to life celebrating different tones of Purple and Hot Pink.

Nr Perfection by Naishali

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er show opened with a stunning Hot Pink Silk Jacket complimented by a Digital Printed Velvet Collar, back panel and Cuffs featuring the feather from her brand logo which set the tone for the remainder of her collection.

What followed was a beautifully designed and curated collection featuring everyday wear, overlays, ballgowns and more stunning jackets. Each outfit is marked with a profusion of Digital Printing, Embroidery, Handmade Lace, Ombre Dying and Playful smocking.

The subtle ways in which the collection highlighted the different tones stood out through the Hot Pink lining reflecting through the slits of a dress or a peek through the Double-Breasted Jacket or through a reversible Silk Satin Dress.







#### This Year's Trends

As a feather floats through the air creating an iridescence effect, Vaishali's collection captured the flow and shine of the garments through a clever selection of different Silk Fabrics for her entire collection.

No collection of Vaishali is complete without a Dramatic piece. For this collection we were treated with not one but two such pieces! First up was a Short Hot Pink Silk Dress with Dragonfly Sleeves an outfit that will make a statement and make heads turn



# Satin & Raw Silk

collection celebrates the vibrancy of life. As a prism reflects a rainbow of colours, Vaishali's collection reflects a range of styles, fabrics, techniques and emotions making the collection truly Iridescent.

collection celebrates the vibrancy of life. As a prism reflects a rainbow of colours, Vaishali's collection reflects a range of styles, fabrics, techniques and emotions making the collection truly lridescent.

**Website**: www.vzperfection.co.uk

**Instagram**: https://instagram.com/vzperfection **Facebook**: https://facebook.com/vzperfection

The second dramatic piece was a Jacket with multiple Ombre' d panels from Satin Silk to Raw Silk to Textured Silk creating a different colour effect from the angel of view instilling the meaning of Iridescence both literally and metaphorically.

With the line between our virtual and terrestrial world continuing to blur and Purple returning as the key colour of 2023 converging the two worlds representing wellbeing and Digital escapism, Vaishali's SS23

materials and their tantalizing textures. Following her

passion, Vaishali made her way to the UK where she studied fashion and later worked as a freelance

extraordinary insight into the world of high-end fashion and

learned the intricacies of designing, creating and perfectly finishing each haute couture garment. Vaishali had

designer.

found her calling.



# MUST-READ BOOKS FOR YOUR KIDS IN THIS WINTER

Winter is here, and as you cosy up by the fire, it's time for some great winter reads with your kiddos. Recommended are amazing books, written by Children's Author Angela Legh & Author Vee James, for kids that show them the magic of reading exciting books in this season!

#### **BELLA SANTINI**

#### IN THE LAND OF EVERLASTING CHANGE

#### BY AUTHOR ANGELA LEGH

An ordinary teen girl stumbles into a fairy ceremony; is arrested and brought to the fairy kingdom, the Land of Everlasting Change, a land caught in the struggle between good and evil, where Queen Tatiana fights to keep the balance of power from tipping. Queen Tatiana spreads the message of the truth of fairyland, that fairies are emissaries of love. This gripping tale in a magical land crosses time and dimensions, bringing readers on a journey of self-discovery.

This book series seeks to plant seeds of wellness into every child's hearts and minds who reads or has the books read to them.



The seeds planted are unconditional love, inner peace, and emotional self-mastery. Many parents are aware of the upward trend in teen suicide. The Substance Abuse Mental Health Agency (SAMHSA) states, the causes of suicide are complex and determined by multiple combinations of factors, such as mental illness, substance abuse, painful losses, exposure to violence, and social isolation. Social isolation has significantly increased under Covid-19 lockdown. Underneath all of these issues are emotions with which the teens are unable to cope.

The Bella Santini Chronicles, a fairytale series aimed at ages 8-12, teaches children the importance of processing their emotions and gives them tools to process their feelings. The book series delves into complex topics, such as child abandonment, bullying, sibling rivalry, and good vs. evil. Readers build emotional muscle and set a path of well-being that can help them navigate the difficult teen years without seeing suicide as a solution to their problems.

Get your kid a copy of 'Bella Santini in the Land of Everlasting Change' today. Available on Amazon.



#### **JOURNEY AS AN AUTHOR**

Angela Legh is best known as the author of her children's fantasy book series, The Bella Santini Chronicles, which gives children and their parents tools and techniques for emotional balance. For over 50 years, Angela experienced abuse, bullying, and belittlement, and through that exposure, she developed methods of emotional management. She began writing children's books as a gift for her friend's daughter and, six months later, realized she was writing emotional management instructions into her children's book series.

Angela has been featured in USA Today and the Los Angeles Tribune newspaper and magazine, along with countless other media exposure. Angela is an international bestselling author with eight published books.

Angela has shared the stage with Les Brown, Bernardo Moya, Diana Wentworth, Alison Larsen, Moe Rock, David Fagan, Dr. Ali Lankerani, and many others. Angela has done everything from speaking to C-suite level entrepreneurs about emotional intelligence to creating engaging of Taxas Nov. Maxima

isn't writing children's stories, she can be found hiking in the beautiful wilderness of Taos, New Mexico.

#### **EDITORIAL REVIEWS**

When readers follow Bella Santini on her adventures, they learn that love is the answer, no matter what the question." - Jack Canfield, Co-Author of Chicken Soup for the Soul.

The first book in The Bella Santini Chronicles, Bella Santini in the Land of Everlasting Change, is a gripping fairy tale and a guide to emotional intelligence for teens and pre-teens. Bella is a relatable and engaging protagonist whose determination and independence make her a fantastic role model for readers. As well as modeling both emotional intelligence and consequences in the plotline, the book offers supplemental guidance for parents to support discussion and reading, from parenting advice to resources for exploring themes like bullying and sibling rivalry more deeply." - **Dr. Jen Harrison, The Children's Book Review** 

FOLLOW AUTHOR ANGELA LEGH





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#### Q: What do you love most about writing stories for children?

Writing stories for children brings me back to my childhood, the awe and the wonder of it all. I like re-experiencing that kind of joy through what I am writing. I remember being transported through wonderful books as a child, and it is my hope that my books provide children with that experience.

#### Q: Have you always wanted to be a writer? What inspired you to become a children's author?

I remember years ago when I announced to my psychologist that I wanted to write books. I had no idea what I would write about, I just knew that it was something I was meant to do. A few years later, my mind was filled with a story about fairies, so I started writing and have not stopped!

#### Q: Do you like to create books for adults too?

I have toyed with the idea of writing for adults, and it might be something that I do in the future. Right now, I am focused on helping children to understand their innate value.

#### Q: What topics do your stories cover and why are these important to you?

My stories are fantasies, but they cover important topics, such as child abandonment and bullying. My life experiences taught me emotional intelligence, and I hope to give children insights into how to deal with painful emotions through stories.

#### Q: How do you come up with the titles to your books?

When I started writing about Bella, I knew she needed a last name. Would Harry Potter have been so iconic without his last name? So, I asked, what would be a good last name for a girl named Bella, and "Santini" popped up. I later added the word Chronicles so that people would know it is a series.

#### Q: How can you bring up a change in the literature world?

One reader called my books "edutainment," which I like. We have all read stories that have caused us to rethink our lives. Stories have always been a way for us to open our horizons. I think my books take this to a new level, opening individuals to a whole new way of thinking.

#### Q: Why do you think it is important for children to develop a love of reading?

Did you know that Einstein said, "If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales." Reading to children increases empathy, builds the parent-child relationship, and increases creativity, focus, and vocabulary.

#### Q: Which is your favorite children's book?

In second grade, my teacher read our class the book "The Hobbit." I loved the story and went on to quickly read the trilogy the "Lord of the Rings." I was hooked on magical books! It didn't matter what genre, if magic was involved, I read it!

#### Q: What was one of the most surprising things you learned in creating your books?

I was naive and had no idea of the costs involved in creating children's books. The cost of illustrations, editors, and typesetters. Before I knew it, I had spent \$30,000, and that was before the books hit the market! I was also surprised at how I wrote these books. At first, I thought I had to write every day to be successful. Now I write when I am inspired to write.

#### Q: Do you have a favorite character that you have written? If so, who? And what makes them so special.

My favorite character is Torvieto, a fairy who was turned into a gargoyle and condemned to 900 years in stone. Torvieto was freed by Bella in book 1, though he has not yet been restored to his fairy form. He is old-fashioned, with a dry wit and a cockney accent. He rarely mentions the hardships he experienced. I love his reliance!

#### Q: What were the key challenges you faced when writing this book?

My biggest challenge was figuring out my messaging; how to get parents to understand how life-changing my stories can be. At first, I talked about child suicide and how my books can help kids avoid that horrible choice. But that didn't resonate with the masses. Now, my message is about knowing how to deal with painful feelings.

#### Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

I think that awards received by authors can help readers choose good books with valuable messages.

#### Q: Do you have any upcoming books? What is it about?

I am so very excited to announce the pending release of the third book in my series, Princess Bella Visits the Dragon's Lair! The book is in final editing and should hit stores soon!

#### Q: How do you feel about your book being featured in DE MODE?

I am excited to have my book series featured as a DE MODE recommended title to be read this winter! It is always my intention to engage, enlighten, and empower the readers of my books; and with DE MODE promoting them, more people will find their magic within.

# THE WITCH'S COOKBOOK (A FAERIE TALE)

#### BY AUTHOR VEE JAMES

In the magical world of Faerie lives a young Sgahm named Tardnattle. The Sgahm are simple, wee folk who love cooking, long walks, friendship and above all else, doing the right thing. But what happens when doing the right thing means returning the strange cookbook to an even more terrifying witch? Adventure! Join young Tardnattle and friends as they journey to return "The Witches Cookbook".

In this unique and special "fairie tale," themes of being brave in

the face of fear, loyal friendship, and accepting the differences in others are set in the wonderful world of Faerie where familiar denizens such as Pixies, Brownies, and Witches are joined by new fantasy beings such as the Sgahm, Pillodox, Halalayas, and the beautiful Bynicorn.

For parents, teachers, and librarians, this story has been described as "an excellent introduction to the fantasy genre for young readers." Reviewers point out the numerous lessons and an emphasis on the diverse characters working together to solve problems. Age-appropriate action, very little violence, and no gore make this book accessible to advanced young readers ready to read longer chapter books.

The Witch's Cookbook: A Faerie Tale takes us to the land of faerie and introduces us to the creatures living there. We meet the cute little denizens of the place, they are called Sgahm. They are happy creatures who like bright mornings, songs, butterflies, stars, and takes delight in cooking and long walks.

Get your kid a copy of 'The Witch's Cookbook' today. Available on Amazon.



**VEE JAMES** 

#### **JOURNEY AS AN AUTHOR**

Author Vee James approaches the middle-grade fantasy novel in a way similar to his adult fantasy comedies, "The Little Ship of Horrors" and "Neccabashar", emphasizing humor over dark themes and giving "The Witch's Cookbook" a poignant, feel-good ending.

His love of stories began with his mother, Doris, reading to him. Not just Dick and Sally or children's literature but the classics. She read aloud whatever she was reading for herself, whether it was Shakespeare or "The Ancient Mariner". At two, he crawled up on a tree stump to deliver those immortal words, "To be or not to be". True story.

At 5, he dictated to his mom his first play. As she typed away on her Smith-Corona, he told the story of "Love versus Hate". He went on to "write" schoolboy versions of "Tom Sawyer", "Romeo and Juliet", and others. Performance was in his blood and he turned to act in children's theatre and performances in high school and college. He played Uncle Smelicue in "Dark of

the Moon", Bottom in "A Midsummer Night's Dream", and a starry-eyes lover in the melodrama, "Bertha, the Bartender's Beautiful Baby". I had the unique experience of playing Randall P. McMurphy in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" the same year Nicholson won the Oscar.

Always sustaining this energy was the love of stories and language. He never found it difficult to perform because he loved to share the words of great writers with an audience. In the 90's, a dear friend challenged him to write stories in many different genres and together we explored Fantasy, Horror, Supernatural, SciFi, Travel Writing, and many other forms. He was so fortunate to have this friend who presented him with both supportive feedback and brotherly critique. In 2012, he attended what is truly a life-changing writers' workshop in New Hampshire called "Odyssey Writing Workshops Charitable Trust". For six intense weeks, he felt like a Martian colonist cocooned in an immersive, writer-friendly capsule. His skills put to the test daily, his imagination challenged by the great minds around me, and his heart soaring with the love of this art.

**FOLLOW AUTHOR VEE JAMES** 







COOKBOOK

VEE JAMES

THE WITCH'S

kindle

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#### Q: What do you love most about writing stories for children?

I love the look of excitement in a child's eyes as they discover new things.

#### Q: Have you always wanted to be a writer? What inspired you to become a children's author?

I wrote my first play when I was in second grade, so I think storytelling has been in my heart all my life, inspired by my mother reading to me every night. I wrote this children's book as a challenge to myself as an author.

#### Q: Do you like to create books for adults too?

I love to write comedy so anyone 13 and up can enjoy my more adult books. My plans include an upcoming high fantasy trilogy that will not be for young readers.

#### Q: What topics do your stories cover and why are these important to you?

There is a tremendous volume of negative content coming at all of us these days. I hope to spread messages of hope and happiness. Let's laugh together.

#### Q: How do you come up with the titles to your books?

I establish a title early in the process and rarely change it by the end. It is something of a guiding light while I am writing. For instance, even though the witch doesn't appear for quite a while in this story, her "transformation" is the key to the whole tale.

#### Q: How can you bring up a change in the literature world?

I love to attempt as many of the established genres as I can and mix them up in pleasing ways. For instance, three of my books are "Fantasy Comedy" but that's hardly a classification you can find. Still, some of the great writers of the modern age have written in it: Terry Pratchett, Neil Gaimen, and Douglas Adams to name a few.

#### Q: Why do you think it is important for children to develop a love of reading?

Reading to a child and teaching them to read is the most important accomplishment a parent or teacher can make. Once a child's imagination sets sail, look out world!

#### Q: Which is your favorite children's book?

There are so many imaginative and instructive tales for children. I suppose "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves" has all the great elements of a classic fairytale.

#### Q: What was one of the most surprising things you learned in creating your books?

The intense reading about the psychology of fairytales gave me a glimpse behind the curtain of how a fairytale works and why they are good

for children. That was all a surprising revelation for me.

#### Q: Do you have a favorite character that you have written? If so, who? And what makes them so special.

Of all the characters so far, I would have to say my demon Neccabashar holds a place in my heart. He's so self-assured and egotistical that we love to laugh at him. All his terrible schemes go wrong and he fails to hurt anyone. Even so, Neccabashar secretly has a good heart and learns his lesson each time.

#### Q: What is the key theme and/or message in the book?

"The Witch's Cookbook" stresses self-reliance and bravery, at the same time showing cooperative efforts among friends. It also points out that sometimes our perception of another person can be wrong.

#### Q: What were the key challenges you faced when writing this book?

"The Witch's Cookbook" is probably the most structured book I've written to date. I wanted to write a classic fairy tale, not a cynical or parody of one. I studied fairytale writing before attempting this.

#### Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

If you mean book awards, they are certainly useful in marketing. Readers love to know the book they are reading has received recognition. "The Witch's Cookbook" received a five-star rating and recognition as a literary work.

If you are talking about rewards and awards for children (in terms of parenting), the best rewards are things a child can earn that lead to feelings of self-respect and self-reliance.

#### Q: What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

This depends on the type of story it is and whether I feel I need to bolster my knowledge. For this fairytale, I spent several weeks studying fairytales and fairytale psychological theories. There are some very deep reasons why these tales were invented, going far back into an age when the common man could not read.

#### Q: Do you have any upcoming books? What is it about?

I have several projects I'm working on. The second in this fairytale series is called "Daizzle's World." I'm nearing the completion of a YA Supernatural story called "Robin."

#### Q: How do you feel about your book being featured in DE MODE?

I'm very excited to present my work to a wider international audience and I thank DE MODE for the opportunity.





#### paris fashion week

# jitrois. Spring-Summer 23

BY JEAN-CLAUDE JITROIS I

As the global rhythm of sociality begins to beat more melodically, Jean-Claude Jitrois reflects with enthusiasm on the therapeutic powers found in the art of dressing up. In doing so he propels us towards a more idealised version of ourselves, abstract perhaps but forever real.

The alter ego is an entity one crafts, a personal and sometimes liberating identity that we decide to put forth in the public sphere, but perhaps more dominantly in our intimacy. For his spring-summer 23 collection, leather couturier Jean-Claude Jitrois invites us all on a journey of discovery and creation opening the doors to a privileged relation with his audience

The collection was developed around the concept of the Jean-Claude's "second skin, second self" mantra, building on key references from Jitrois' rich and extensive archive to project modern avant-garde yet wearable interconnected garments that unzip to showcase dynamic and daring silhouettes.

Jitrois' world-famous stretch leather lambkin gets a bold and bright renewal in the form of short cut-out embroidered gilets, cropped asymmetric tops, bright coloured micro-mini-skirts and exposed zipped fronted flared trousers. Dresses and jumpsuits take note from the 70's disco era with cinched waist detailing, plunging necklines and thigh-grazing hems. The menswear follows suit with hyper-sexy black metallic micro shorts, fitted biker pants, bondage-inspired sleeveless vests and multicoloured eyeleted harnesses.

The house's iconic second-skin black stretch leather plays harmoniously with luminescent tones of metallic blue and black, vivid flashes of ultramarine blue, cyclamen, sky blue, lime green and candy apple red alongside familiar tones of blood red, lemon yellow, kaki green and white.

As a designer and a psychotherapist, Jean Claude Jitrois gifts us the tools to create our very own alter ego, in a safe arena constructed to express ourselves. A better self for a better world, reset yourself.







#### $DEMODE \,|\, \text{paris fashion week}$













#### $\overline{DEMODE}$ | paris fashion week















#### S DESIGNER HOUSE BY DESIGNER LE TRAN DAC NGOC



LE TRAN DAC NGOC

S Designer House by Designer Le Tran Dac Ngoc. The first kidswear brand from VIETNAM at THAILAND FASHION WEEK. He opened Thailand Fashion Week AW22-23 with 16 Vietnamese child models. Not only with their bright appearance and professional demeanour, but these young models also have much experience in "fighting" at many major domestic and international catwalks. 16 names with 16 personality colours wearing unique designs will bring impressive performances on the THAILAND FASHION WEEK AW22-23 runway. These 16 child models will perform a collection called "Vietnamese sounds and colours of 5 continents" which is the interference between traditional national elements and contemporary breath, between Vietnamese culture and countries across 5 continents. The collection carries a distinct design philosophy and a profound fashion story and conveys a meaningful humanistic message.

## $DEMODE \,|\, \text{thailand fashion week}$







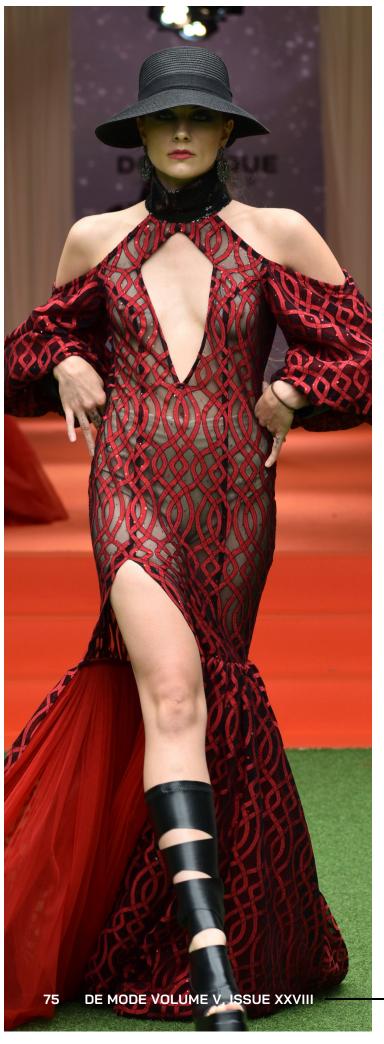




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### $\overline{DEMODE}$ | Thailand fashion week













#### **FADAL CORDILLERA PHILIPPINES**

From Team FaDAL Cordillera (Philippines), 4 designers presented their AW22-23 collection at THAILAND FASHION WEEK. Designer Ayra Longsiab, Designer ANDREW VISAYA, Designer LAYDEH ALBERTO and Designer JULIENNE PARAN (President of FADAL Cordillera).

FaDAL Fashion Designers Alliance CORDILLERA & MINDANAO ~Aligning with the Alliance, Aiming for Greater Heights in the Fashion Industry "I am FaDAL". ~ "CORDILLERA & MINDANAO is home to a lot of designers who have been helping the local culture be known. Thus, a group has been formed to highlight their uniqueness and the unending passion to put the island region on the international fashion and design map. FaDAL Cordillera and Mindanao Directors Mr Xioti Chiu and Ms Julien Paran said at the launch "We will maximize our gifts, talents and experiences in the field of fashion, not only to contribute to the growth of the organization, but for the career advancement of our members as we have the deep yearning to sharpen our skills every step of the way,". To the aspiring designers and the existing ones who dream of becoming big one day, Chiu and Paran emphasized three major ingredients. "In the fashion industry, it takes an enormous amount of discipline, responsibility, and integrity. This is the heart and soul of FaDAL,". As an organization, they live by their mantra of being an Alliance. "We mobilize and function not as a typical organization but as a force that embodies our cultural identity as an alliance. We stand proudly as a Fashion Designers Alliance Philippines (Manila, Cordillera, Mindanao)," FaDAL aims for greater heights, which means gearing towards a wider audience. With this in mind, the organization serves as a platform "where we put each designer in a spotlight, helping each other to market themselves in this cut throat industry." Fadal is known to accept the unique, innovative, and newly-honed brave designer.

### $\overline{DEMODE}$ | Thailand fashion week













#### **URBAN PIGEONS**

The Award-Nominated Celebrity Designer Gregory from Boston, Massachusetts will Debut a New Line of Reversible Fur Coats, Pants, Corsets, Bodysuits, and the Latest Pigeons Steppers Shoes.

Thailand Fashion Week has rapidly become a prominent event in the world of fashion, acting as an incubator for the world's most innovative designers and emerging talent. The annual event returns to Bangkok on June 30th to showcase the Autumn/Winter 22-23 collections from both established and emerging brands across Haute-Couture, Ready-To-Wear, Avant-Garde, Accessories, and Footwear. Award-nominated celebrity designer Gregory Dubuisson, also known as Yazbthegreat, is proud to announce the debut of his new line for Urban Pigeons highend streetwear at Thailand Fashion Week 2022.

Nominated as the best male fashion designer for 2022, Yazbthegreat brings his unparalleled talent and passion for diverse cultures to the runway come June 30. Debuting Urban Piegon's new line of reversible fur coats, pants, corsets, bodysuits, and the latest Pigeons steppers shoes, Yazbthegreat is ushering in a new era of streetwear to harness comfort, creativity, practicality, and individuality.

Each piece in the collection is one-of-a-kind, features vivid and flamboyant colours, and derives inspiration from traditional and cultural patterns from Haiti, Guadeloupe, and Asia. Yazbthegreat seeks to create a subset of streetwear that is 100% unique, creating pieces that will not be found in anyone else. With this in mind, the new Urban Pigeons signature jackets are both versatile and reversible, allowing for two unique looks with one garment. "Urban Pigeons' is a way of life. Step out of your comfort zone and discover the new you. My name is Yazbthegreat and I invite you to join the flock by stepping in style and being comfortable in what you wear. Together we can create a future where people can feel comfortable in what they wear."

# $\overline{DEMODE}$ | Thailand Fashion week













### **FADAL MINDANAO Philippines**

From Team FaDAL Mindanao (Philippines), 4 designers presented their AW22-23 collection at THAILAND FASHION WEEK. Designer Daryl Tejano, Designer Julien Gentica, Designer Mcenzie Han and Designer Ivan Raborar.

FaDAL Fashion Designers Alliance CORDILLERA & MINDANAO ~Aligning with the Alliance, Aiming for Greater Heights in the Fashion Industry "I am FaDAL". ~ "CORDILLERA & MINDANAO is home to a lot of designers who have been helping the local culture be known. Thus, a group has been formed to highlight their uniqueness and the unending passion to put the island region on the international fashion and design map. FaDAL Cordillera and Mindanao Directors Mr Xioti Chiu and Ms Julien Paran said at the launch "We will maximize our gifts, talents and experiences in the field of fashion, not only to contribute to the growth of the organization, but for the career advancement of our members as we have the deep yearning to sharpen our skills every step of the way,". To the aspiring designers and the existing ones who dream of becoming big one day, Chiu and Paran emphasized three major ingredients. "In the fashion industry, it takes an enormous amount of discipline, responsibility, and integrity. This is the heart and soul of FaDAL,". As an organization, they live by their mantra of being an Alliance. "We mobilize and function not as a typical organization but as a force that embodies our cultural identity as an alliance. We stand proudly as a Fashion Designers Alliance Philippines (Manila, Cordillera, Mindanao)," FaDAL aims for greater heights, which means gearing towards a wider audience. With this in mind, the organization serves as a platform "where we put each designer in a spotlight, helping each other to market themselves in this cut throat industry." Fadal is known to accept the unique, innovative, and newly-honed brave designer.

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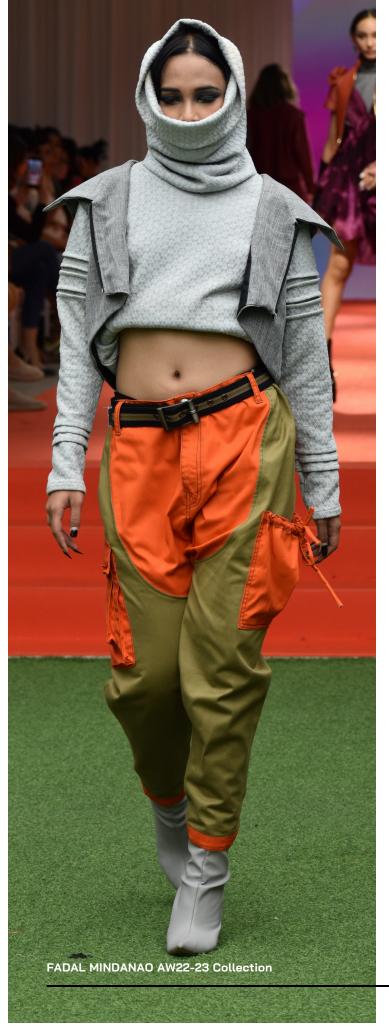








# $\overline{DEMODE}$ | Thailand Fashion week













#### **IVAN TRAN**

Ivan Tran - Who has succeeded top designer in Vietnam. Compilation with many celebrities in Viet Nam. Come to Thailand Fashion Week, He would like to send off his clothes to all of you of his newest collection "Trúc - Bamboo". It's been quite a while since Ivan released a collection name with a rather short name, but deep in it is a forest of Ivan's thoughts. Bamboo is a kind of tree that people think of as affirmative, strong, and also very flexible in the wind when it comes to people. If it is related to Ivan's fashion or personality, it can be said to be almost the same, sometimes thorny, strong, somewhere flexible and versatile. Versatile here is that people find it very applicable in any place.



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PRIMA is the first-ever capsule collection of Designer Nicole Santos for her closet brand namely "DOMINIQUE Atelier". It is inspired mainly by vintage designs and the current turn into fashion for the women of today. She combined unconventional textures, patterns and colour palettes for each design and curated a cohesive 14pcs fashionable design for this capsule.

Moreover, she researched and experimented with local labrics from the Philippines such as MUSA fabric, TNALAK' and PINYA fabric. MUSA is made from dried banana and abaca fibre that are woven together to make cloth fabric. TNALAK' is made from the abaca fibre plant and PINYA fabric, a traditional Philippine fibre made from the leaves of the pineapple plant. Fashion sustainability is one advocacy that Nicole Santos Couture highly supports, hence most of the pieces for our PRIMA collection were incorporated from our local fabrics in the Philippines.

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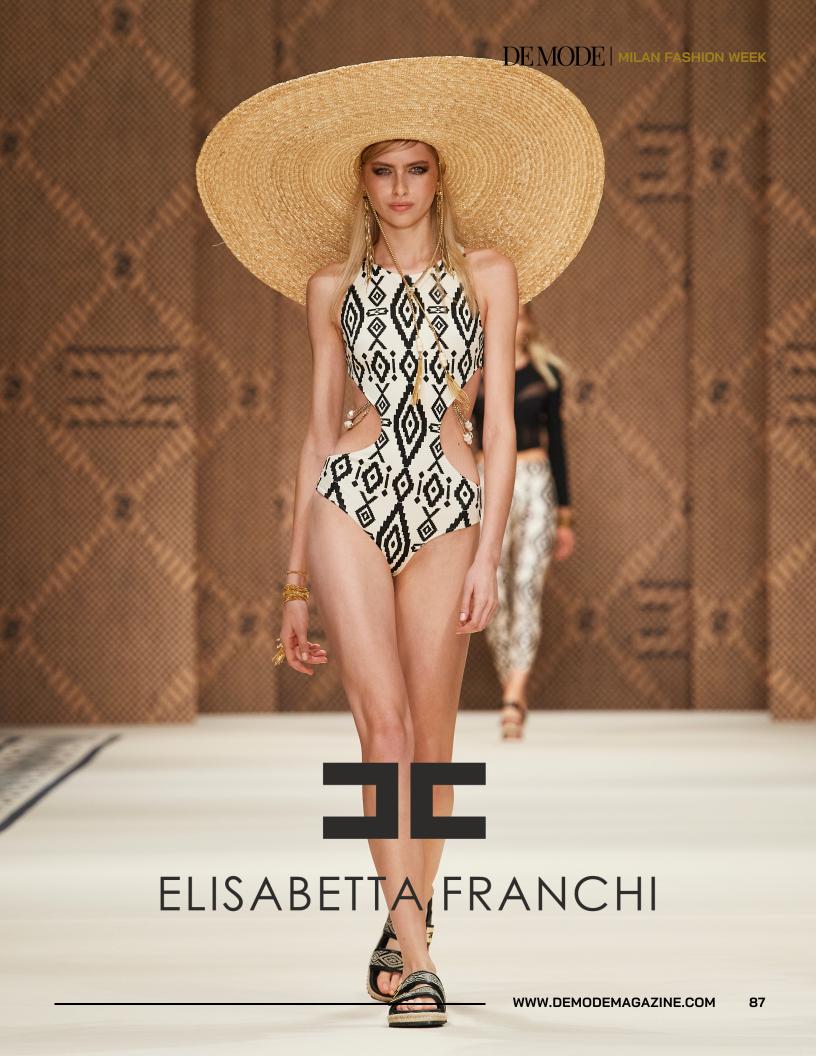












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